

Hafa Adai!

Sanders' NH campaign director on island for Dem caucus. **PAGE 2**
Visitor arrivals 30% in February—MVA. **PAGE 3**

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Hostage crisis passes 24-hour mark

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The showdown between local and federal authorities and Gordon Aldan Castro, a man who took a woman hostage to avoid arrest, passed 24 hours yesterday and is on track to pass the 48-hour mark.

As of 6:30pm yesterday, the Department of Public Safety has yet to apprehend Castro who took his supposed girlfriend hostage at around 1pm Tuesday afternoon to avoid

being arrested on a warrant.

Castro and his alleged girlfriend remain barricaded in Castro's family residence deep in the village of San Antonio

See HOSTAGE on Page 4

NMC eyes moving classes online

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread throughout the world, the Northern Marianas College is considering moving its classes on-

line in a bid to minimize the person-to-person transmission of the virus if ever it enters the CNMI.

"We are working with our staff and faculty to ensure the implementation and continuity

See NMC on Page 4

TO MOVE INDUSTRY FORWARD Cannabis panel adopts emergency rules

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With the tourism slowdown, the CNMI government is turning its attention to a new industry—cannabis—for ways to shore up the limping economy

Last Tuesday, March 10, the CNMI Cannabis Commission unanimously adopted emergency rules and regulations, which, once signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, would allow the commission to jump-

See CANNABIS on Page 4

WITH COVID-19 TASK FORCE IN PLACE

Torres to public: Live normally



By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres created and presented to the public yesterday a COVID-19 Task Force with the twin message of steps being taken

to keep the CNMI coronavirus-free and for the public not to panic and to "live your life normal[ly]."

The task force, which brings together 10 key departments, agencies, and stakeholders, is intended to focus

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios present to the public the COVID-19 Task Force composed of 10 key departments, agencies, and stakeholders yesterday at the Office of the Governor conference room.

IVA MAURIN

on three major concerns: tourism, residents, and schools. Above all that, however, is taking care of the communi-

ty's health, Torres said. "Our health care is more important than anything," he said.

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INSIDE



NATION

Joe Biden won Michigan's Democratic presidential primary, seizing a key battleground state.

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WORLD

Italy enforces a sweeping lockdown to stop the spreading coronavirus epidemic.

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ENVIRONMENT

A trillion trees is a lot, but would be inadequate to address the global warming crisis.

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JOE BIDEN



BERNIE SANDERS

Local

Sanders' NH campaign director on island for Dem caucus

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Shannon Jackson, the New Hampshire campaign director of Democratic Party presidential candidate Sen. Bernie

Sanders, arrived on Saipan last Tuesday for this Saturday's Democratic Caucus in the CNMI.

Nola Kileleman Hix, the Democratic Party of the NMI chairwoman, said yesterday

that Jackson arrived after a 33-hour flight from Vermont.

His presence is intended to encourage people from the Northern Mariana Islands to take part in the caucus and vote for Sanders, Hix said.

Bank of Saipan offers payment relief

To assist its customers with their payment obligations, Bank of Saipan is offering a slate of payment relief options, recognizing the financial hardship burdening its customers as a result of the COVID-19 impact on the CNMI economy.

"The type and form of the financial assistance provided will be tailored to the specific needs of the individual

loan customer's situation," said John Arroyo, president and CEO of Bank of Saipan. "While lost wages make it difficult to maintain regular loan payments for everyone, not everyone's situation is the same. Some may not be able to make payment at all and others may wish to continue paying but under modified terms."

Payment relief is available

to consumer and commercial loan customers. Arroyo encourages customers to call or visit the bank's Loan Department to arrange a plan works best for them. The Loan Department is located in the RJ Building in Dandan.

Bank of Saipan is the CNMI's oldest locally chartered bank and operates exclusively in the CNMI. (PR)

meet with voters. And not only that, to learn about politics here in the CNMI," Hix said.

She said that Jackson is meeting with people on the ground, trying to push the campaign for Sanders and to discuss Sanders' plan for the territories.

"It's a great time to be involved in politics," said Hix, adding that she can say the same for the Democratic Party's other presidential candidate, former vice president Joe Biden.

Hix said she and Biden's team have been in contact and that they're also look-

ing forward to the caucus on Saturday.

"They've reached out, asked what it is that we need, what they can do to help. And that's just it. It's not so much about 'vote for me, vote for me.' It's what can we do to help you have a suc-

cessful turnout participation in this historic, second ever in history, presidential caucus in the NMI," Hix said.

She said Jackson is going to be attending the humanities discussion about sovereignty Wednesday night.

"He's just going there to learn a little bit of the culture and everything," Hix said.



Jackson

Scheduled service interruptions

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Friday, March 13, at the following time and locations:

■ **8:30am to 9am: Sectionalized lateral outage on Feeder 4 distribution circuit.**

□ Area(s) affected: Feeder 4
1st Partial: Lower Base, a portion of the northern side of Sadog Tasi, government offices, northern side of Capital Hill, and As Quina

(Wireless)

□ 2nd partial: Southern side of Capitol Hill, Mt. Tapochao, Talafofo, I-Denii, Agag, As Teo, and northern side of Papago

□ 3rd Partial: Southern side of Papago, Kagman, Kagman Homestead 1, 2, 3, & 4, Kagman Elementary, Junior High, and High School
Water service area(s) affected: All water wells located in these areas.

No wastewater service area will be affected.

Traffic lights affected: Sadog Tasi (near Mobil), Kagman (near Mobil), Lower Base (near Saipan Ice)

Work to be performed: To safely disconnect the lateral conductors from the primary lines in Lower Base (serving Procurement and Supply, NMTI, PSS Motor Pool and Saipan Ice).

See **SCHEDULED** on Page 4



PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS 2020 03.14.20

Youngest Members of the Democratic Family

Democrats in the Northern Marianas will caucus on March 14, 2020 to select delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 13-16, 2020, which will nominate the Democratic Party candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America

NMI registered voters who would like to participate and register as members of the party are welcome and encouraged to attend

Registered voters and persons who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov 3, 2020 on Saipan, Tinian, & Rota will be able to visit the designated caucus voting sites and cast votes for their Democratic Presidential Candidate of choice



JOE BIDEN



BERNIE SANDERS

The caucus will be held on Saipan at the World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses at

Northern Marianas College
Rota Center Room B2
VTC Room

Northern Marianas College
Tinian Center Room C
VTC Room

Doors open at 5:00 PM with doors closing for the caucuses to begin promptly at 6:00 PM

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Visitor arrivals down 30% in February—MVA

Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota dropped 30% to 26,702 visitors in February 2020, compared to 38,049 visitors received in February 2019.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority numbers, arrivals from China—the CNMI's

second largest source market—dropped from about 20,000 arrivals last February to only 60 arrivals in February 2020 due to the voluntary suspension of direct flights from China beginning Feb. 1 as a preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19, which is causing

CCC asks to be exempted from work-hour cut

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission will be asking for Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to consider exempting it from a government-wide work-hour cut because they are not receiving any money from the general fund.

When asked for comments about the austerity measures, CCC executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero pointed out yesterday that the casino commission is a 24-7 operation and, in its own way, is a revenue generating entity.

"We haven't received word whether we'll be exempted or not," said Deleon Guerrero, disclosing yesterday that he is waiting to have a meeting with Torres.

Citing the millions of dollars in revenue loss in fiscal year 2020 from the adverse impact of the coronavirus outbreak and residual effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Torres administration announced last month another round of austerity measures that will cut the regular 80 work-hours of government employees to 64 hours starting this Sunday,

March 15.

CCC has 47 employees, including Deleon Guerrero and their lawyer.



Deleon Guerrero

Deleon Guerrero said that, upon receiving Torres' instruction to reduce hours, the casino commission submitted a request to the Office of the Governor to be exempted, based on the fact that CCC's total funding, both personnel and operations, come from the casino regulatory fee.

"This is an enforcement fee. We only receive \$1 from the general fund account. So this is not based on projection," he said.

The executive director said their funding for the full year has already been paid in full back in October 2019.

"So it's not like revenues being projected. It's been paid in full. We have the funds," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said that, in his opinion and based on the emergency declaration, the governor as the chief executive still has the authority to utilize whatever available resources there is to address the emergency.

He said they're cooperating with the Office of the Governor and asking Torres for his consideration to exempt CCC.

worldwide travel to decrease.

Arrivals from Korea grew 28% year-on-year in January 2020 to 19,600. However, with the increase in COVID-19 cases in the country and travel fears, many travelers are hesitant to travel to any destination. The MVA and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met with major Korea tourism partners in late February to offer co-op incentives to buoy the market.

Meanwhile, visitor arrivals from Japan more than tripled, growing 331% to 4,238 visitors in February as the result of daily, direct flights launched by

Skymark Airlines in November from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan. Skymark is offering promotional rates starting at \$38 one-way plus fuel surcharge. While arrivals were strong in February, tourism officials are cautious on the outlook for March and the months ahead.

One ship arrival on Feb. 7, the USS *Bunker*, had 356 passengers.

Economic highlights

The tourism industry in China been significantly affected by

» **Only 60 arrivals from China in February**

COVID-19. Travel demand weakened, as travelers canceled travel plans and opted to stay home to avoid

crowds. It is projected that the tourism market will contract, and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions will also be postponed or canceled. It is also expected that public fear will continue even after the epidemic is under control, and the desire to travel will stay low.

Japan's consumer price inflation edged down to 0.7% year-

on-year in January 2020 from an eight-month high of 0.8% in the previous month. On Feb. 22, the U.S. State Department called for "increased caution" when traveling to Japan, escalating the alert to level 2 on the four-level advisory scale amid reports that a new coronavirus is spreading in Japan via unknown infection routes. The previous advisory at level 1 called on citizens to exercise "normal precautions" in Japan. As for China, the travel advisory has been raised to the highest level of 4, which urges citizens not to travel to the country. (MVA)



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IT&E

CPA develops airport screening and response to COVID-19

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has developed a COVID-19 Airport and Screening Response procedure, adding an additional layer of security to the CNMI's port of entry, to prevent the novel coronavirus from entering the islands.

Airport manager William Camacho said yesterday that, with assistance from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and its federal partners, CPA has come up with the

screening and response procedures for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

"CHCC public health has issued to the airlines a health declaration form questionnaire prior to landing at the Saipan International Airport, to be filled out as part of the early health screening.

"Areas that are highly looked at are passengers from mainland China, and other developing areas of spread, including passengers from Asia. Flights from United coming in from Guam are screened as

well," Camacho said.

Under the procedure, when a passenger develops symptoms while in the air, the flight attendant is to inform the pilot of the situation, who then will contact the air traffic control tower. The control tower will contact the Center for Disease Control for guidance and the aircraft rescue firefighting personnel, to inform them of the suspected ill passenger.

ARFF will contact CHCC, and in coordination with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical

Services and the airlines personnel, a deplanement order will be put in place, the passenger will be assessed, and then be transported to the Commonwealth Health Center for further evaluation.

Camacho added that Public Health personnel are at the airport during flight operations to screen and monitor passengers as they deplane, as they pass through Customs and Border Protection and CNMI Customs.

"Public Health is also always present where passengers are present in the facility. Additional personnel for screening have been added over the early morning hours and afternoon flights as they arrive," he said.

CBP will put a "high stamp" on a passenger's CNMI Customs Form if the personnel reasonably suspects that the individual may have COVID-19; CNMI Customs and Public Health will be informed.

As per protocol, outbound passengers are closely monitored by the airline agent and TSA as well. Should a passenger exhibit signs and symptoms, ARFF will be informed, and the passenger will be assessed and transported to CHC.

Camacho added that documentation of the response is critical, and that exposure control and standard recommendations for the prevention of disease spread and personnel self-monitoring are also included in the procedures.

HOSTAGE

From Page 1

behind the basketball court.

An officer at the scene who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity believes the showdown could drag longer because Castro has made no demands and is not showing signs of surrendering.

The officer added that this is one of the longest-running hostage incidents in the CNMI and they fear the uncertainty of what Castro might do.

In an interview with DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, he said local and federal agents have not rushed in on Castro because their priority is the safety of the hostage and the community.

The Public School System called off classes for Francisco M. Sablan Middle school, the school clos-

est to the scene, until Castro is apprehended.

Neighboring residents will also remain evacuated from the area until Castro is apprehended.

In a press release from DPS yesterday, it said that Castro discharged several more rounds toward an area where officers were posted at 11:45am. DPS states there are no injuries from the rounds that were discharged.

At about 11:57am, officers delivered another package of consumables to the suspect and DPS said negotiations for his surrender are still ongoing.

Those negotiations have been ongoing since Tuesday night, but the suspect initially disconnected the phone line until he requested for food and a drink.

From 7:14am through 7:53am, the suspect fired two rounds a few times, totaling six rounds that were

heard in the area.

Police were executing an arrest warrant for Castro at his residence in Afetnas last Tuesday, but he shot a few rounds in the air to scare off the police.

The warrant of arrest for Castro is for attempted first-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful discharge of a firearm, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, use of a weapon in the furtherance of a crime of violence, and disturbing the peace.

This was in connection with another hostage incident back in 2015 when Castro held his family hostage for seven hours at his house in Afetnas.

Castro allegedly threatened his common-law-wife with a knife if police wouldn't leave while confining her and their two children in the house.

NMC

From Page 1

of services and learning," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

Besides transforming physical classes to online classes, the college is having its staff and faculty trained for such a scenario if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case on island. Right now, the faculty is being trained on how to transition to online classes smoothly.

Furthermore, faculty who may have to work from home will be provided with the training and equipment to continue to provide quality

teaching through online classes for students.

Eliptico said this is still an ongoing discussion and there will be more plans that are needed to execute this goal. The decision will be made along with consultation with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

In addition, Eliptico stated that any decision to close the campus isn't meant to cause unnecessary panic, but what will happen if the virus presents itself on the island. As another precautionary measure, NMC will also be considering suspension of any travel outside the CNMI.

Eliptico encourages NMC students to download the myProa mobile app that will allow NMC to spread information quickly.

"I want to emphasize that the closure of the campus, which may result in the presence of a case in the CNMI, is not to cause panic," said Eliptico. In addition, he wants to accentuate the fact that students will be able to continue with majority of their classes.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada confirmed that they will be moving Public School System high school seniors into Google classrooms so they don't lose instructional time and graduate on time.

TORRES

From Page 1

Since January 2009, the governor has been meeting with the agencies that make up the task force to address the scope of COVID-19. Yesterday's announcement is just a formalization and unification of all efforts being done by the agencies since news about the virus broke.

Recognizing the dire situation on the island, and that the threat of the virus is causing some people to panic, the governor appealed to people to calm down and to live their lives normally, assuring that the task force is working hard to prevent any potential coronavirus from entering the islands.

"Today, we continue to invite our tourists to come to our beautiful is-

lands, to come to the Northern Mariana Islands because it's coronavirus-free, it is beautiful, and we continue to encourage our community to live their life normal," he said.

The governor also said that the task force is currently working on getting federal assistance to cushion the local economy from the downturn caused by the COVID-19 scare.

"We know that our China market is about 38%. But that was not the issue. The issue is what should we do to address this concern on our island. We have 55,000 population and one incident is a big issue," he said.

The governor wants to assure everyone, though, that should an issue arise, he has direct contact with Vice President Mike Pence, whom U.S. President Donald J. Trump has appointed to handle the national coronavirus effort. Torres has already

informed Trump of the CNMI's economic situation, and has appealed for help.

The local COVID-19 Task Force include the Office of the Governor, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Finance, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System.

It will do outreach, facilitate health screenings and establish quarantine protocols for tourists and travelers, increase security in the borders, put up cost-containment measures, and ensure the safety of and the unhampered education of students through transitions to online classes.

CANNABIS

From Page 1

start the industry, for a period of 120 days.

This is pursuant to a section of the law that legalized the cannabis industry in the CNMI, which states that emergency regulations could be adopted, with the concurrence of the governor, effective for a period of not longer than 120 days.

The emergency rules and regulations govern and regulate the cannabis industry in the CNMI pertaining to marijuana producers, retailers, processors, wholesalers, and lounges. The emergency regulations also establish reserved sections for medicinal marijuana, laboratory licenses, and the processing of edibles, which will be established at a later date by the commission.

CNMI Cannabis Commission chair Nadine Deleon Guerrero pointed out that, with many potential investors interested in setting up businesses related to cannabis legalization in the CNMI, the CNMI can move into an industry that can help diversify the economy.

"The CNMI's current economic climate calls for revenue generating ideas that can help circumvent the shortfall caused by COVID-19. ... We recognize that each CNMI resident is a stakeholder in the industry, whether it be through practicing responsible adult cannabis use or in owning a marijuana related business," she said.

"Community support is the key component of our success and we continue our efforts to ensure safe, responsible, and educated use. We anticipate the public's comments and we invite them to do so during the finalization of this process," Deleon Guerrero added.

With all sectors working to ensure the CNMI gets through this COVID-19 crisis, Cannabis Commission managing director Monique Boyer Sablan said that the Commonwealth needs the immediate infusion of financial resources to continue funding public health, safety, and overall welfare of the islands.

"It is important to note that the emergency regulations are the first phases of the fully constructed procedures, but the commission believes that the current emergency regulations address the immediate and necessary measures to initiate the rev-

enue generating cannabis industry. We are working attentively to ensure our office is ready for operations to be able to meet the needs of potential applicants," Sablan added.

Although the commission has been working to ensure an immediate jumpstart to the cannabis industry, it has faced many challenges, including financial constraints.

The CNMI Cannabis Commission said in a statement yesterday that it continues to remain steadfast in its mission to regulate the cannabis industry by implementing and administering the laws enabling responsible adult personal use of cannabis and to capture a new revenue stream that contributes toward overall economic progress in the Commonwealth.

Pursuant to Public Law 20-66 and Public Law 21-05, the commission held its organizational meeting in September 2019 to begin the structuring, framework, and promulgation of the CNMI Cannabis Commission rules and regulations.

By law, the commission is responsible for prescribing forms and adopt such rules and regulations as the commission deems necessary for the implementation and administration of the Cannabis Act within 180 days after the commission's organizational meeting.

SCHEDULED

From Page 2

■ 8:30am to 1pm: Sectionalized lateral outage on Feeder 4 distribution circuit.

- Area(s) affected: Feeder 4 Lower Base (Wushin Corp., Procurement & Supply, NMTI, PSS Motor Pool and Saipan Ice)
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Traffic lights affected: Lower Base (near Saipan Ice)

Water service interruption

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of Lower Dandan, As Lito, Fina Sisu, portions of As Perdido and Koblerville on Friday, March 13, 2020, and Monday, March 16, 2020, from 8:30am to 4pm.

Water operations personnel identified two 6-inch waterline leaks on Exploring Drive in Dandan that will have to be repaired. (PR)

‘Statistics in Schools’ brings 2020 Census to life for students

To support educators in teaching students about how the 2020 Census will shape the future of the nation for the next 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau’s “Statistics in Schools” program has developed new classroom materials for students of all ages to teach them about the importance of statistics in everyday life.

One CNMI teacher, Riya Nathrani, a middle school teacher at Hopwood Middle School in Afetna, is an ambassador for the 2020 SIS program. Nathrani also contributed her expertise to the development of the middle

school level activities for the 2020 SIS program.

“Our island is extremely dependent on federal funding for schools, roads, free school lunches, and more. With our rapidly growing and changing island population, it is especially important that we have an accurate census count to continue receiving funding for the resources we need,” Nathrani said.

Children from ages birth to 5 have historically been undercounted in the census, and an accurate count of all children is critical because 2020 Census responses help

inform decisions about the distribution of federal funds for services and programs that children and their guardians rely on. These include special education, teacher training, technology, school lunch assistance, Head Start and after-school programs.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the SIS program offers 67 new activities as well as a song, interactive videos, large maps of the U.S. and its territories, and more—all focused on the 2020 Census. Also new this year are activities designed specifically for English language learners, including

adults learning English as a second language.

The new activities help students understand the importance of having everyone in their families counted in the 2020 Census this spring—so communities can get their fair share of federal funding and the right representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Teachers and subject matter experts from across the country worked with the Census Bureau to create each SIS activity, with the goal of making the activities valuable, relevant, and useful for classroom teachers. The activities

are available at no cost.

“The SIS Materials are fun and interactive. Some of my students didn’t know what the census was or that it was happening in 2020. These materials have helped them gain a much better understanding of the importance of the census, especially for the islands. These resources make the census much more relatable and they now understand that our school programs, all rely on federal funding,” Nathrani said.

Nathrani also leads professional development sessions to inform other teachers about the materials and shares ways to incorporate the activities

into their lesson plans.

The SIS materials include exercises that students can complete at home. **(PR)**

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Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store now accepting food stamps

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is proud to partner with the CNMI Nutritional Assistance Program in accepting benefits commonly known as food stamps.

NAP is a part of a nationwide program designed to provide families who are temporarily in need of basic nutritional support.

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is now able to extend quality meats, an extensive variety of dairy items, and fresh produce to NAP recipients, empowering families to cook more nutritious meals at home.

With a butcher shop that offers Certified Angus Beef of any cut, a produce department that is replenished weekly, a growing vegan section within a Dairy and Deli department and a Grab-and-Go corner for those who need a quick meal, Payless SuperFresh & Truck-

load Store can help you bring more to your dinner table.

NAP recipients are also encouraged to sign up for the Customer First Rewards Program to earn more points and credit toward in-store items.

Store hours are 8am to 9pm every day. Follow the store on Facebook: @paylessuperfreshtruckloadstore and on Instagram @paylessuperfresh for updates on featured items and sale extensions as well as pick up a copy of the *Saipan Tribune* every Tuesday and Thursday for in-store new arrivals.

“We are committed to keeping this Triple J promise—to provide the freshest and highest quality foods for everyone on island,” said general manager Morgan Carrico.

To learn more about CNMI NAP, visit the organization’s Facebook page: @nap.cnmi or call (670)237.2800. **(PR)**



Saipan’s oldest retail health and safety store is Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. (SFSCNMI), located in Gualo Rai Village on Saipan. Safety 1st opened in 1993, and merged into its current store in 2008.

SFSCNMI’s store manager Emi Agulto announced new product pricing, sales promotions for the coming months and a new company logo. Agulto re-introduced Dave Sellers, Safety 1st Guam’s Director of Sales, who travels to Saipan weekly, and the store’s friendly and capable staff of six.

SFSCNMI continues to be Saipan’s best stocked health and safety outlet with inventory for fire safety, construction and traffic safety, personal protective equipment, hazardous materials mitigation, occupational health and safety compliance, medical and first aid kits, the latest and best models of Timberline, KEEN, Red Wing protective footwear, marine safety, fire extinguisher inspections and refills and your favorite Pelican cases and pugua pouches.

Agulto announced new pricing in response to buyers’ choices in sourcing now in Saipan and online. Service has always been the cornerstone and commitment to Saipan, and now Safety 1st will reduce pricing in these trying times to keep our customers loyal to the service we provide. Customers are encouraged to check this out with Emi Agulto and the store’s front end staff. Safety 1st guarantees to beat any on-island price for all product brand lines.

Safety Sam, a green 22 foot dancing float, will be on display at the Gualo Rai location often in the months to come. Agulto states, “Whenever Safety Sam is being displayed, we will give customers discounts that day on any item in the store, with the exception of inventory already on sale. Cash sales only.”

When asked if the recent outbreak of coronavirus in Asian and other countries has affected business, manager Agulto urged everyone to take care of themselves and others. She added, “SFSCNMI has newly ordered 3M N-95 masks and additional inventory in Tyvek protective clothing, gloves, footwear and other protective equipment arriving to fit our islands’ needs.”

Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. specializes in products meeting NIOSH, NFPA, OSHA and all other U.S. federal guidelines specific to product safety standards. “We do not sell products manufactured in foreign countries that fall short of minimum safety standards, or are substandard in their normal wear and tear as a result of bad manufacturing. Safety 1st CNMI provides product warranties and guarantees from the manufacturers. We stand by what we sell 100%.”

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DCCA reshuffles, relocates some divisions, programs

A number of the divisions and programs of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are being temporarily reorganized and relocated to address the need to significantly reduce operational

costs, and address the most critical programs and needs.

The divisions and programs affected are the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, CNMI Respite Service Program,

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Child Care Licensing Program, DCCA Sports Program, and the Office of the Secretary.

Services may be interrupted over the next few days as the relocations and reorganization take place. New contact information for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Child Care Licens-

ing Program, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, and the Office of the Secretary, will be provided to the public by early next week.

New contact information for these programs will also be available on the DCCA's Facebook page @dccamarianas and website at dcca.gov.mp. For any inquiries, email dccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Marianas proposes co-ops with Korea tourism partners

Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres led a delegation from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in a series of meetings with key Korea tourism partners on Feb. 21, 2020, in Seoul.

The meetings aimed to reinforce key partnerships in the Marianas' key source market at a time when tourism has been declining worldwide due to COVID-19, although the Marianas itself has no confirmed cases of the virus.

"We had very productive meetings with airline executives and travel organizations from Korea, and we thank them for assisting us in promoting the Marianas in our number one visitor market," said Torres. "Our meetings were focused on strengthening our partnerships with our airline and travel partners for the long term, despite the un-

expected economic downturn from the coronavirus outbreak. The CNMI government continues to be at the forefront of U.S. efforts to protect our people and our islands from the coronavirus. We continue to reassure our Korean tourism partners that the Marianas remains coronavirus-free destination and continues to be a top-choice destination within the region in the years to come."

The governor was accompanied by Marianas Visitors Authority acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh, board members Jerry Tan and Warren Villagomez, and managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

"As a key part of the MVA's crisis management plan, the Marianas delegation met personally with top executives of our major airline and travel agent partners to discuss ways

we can best weather this storm together," said Cavanagh. "Cognizant that these companies are also suffering in this downturn, we proposed several co-op opportunities that aim to restore confidence in travelling to the Marianas and reboot bookings."

The delegation met with president and chief executive officer Chang-soo Han of Asiana Airlines, president and chief executive officer Hong-Geun Jeong of T'way, executive director Myung Sub Yoo and other representatives of Jeju Air, president and chief executive officer Jinkook Kim of Hana Tour, president and chief executive officer In-tae Yu of Mode Tour, and president and chief executive officer In Joong Kim of Yellow Balloon.

The Marianas delegation offered monetary incentives

for tourism partners to increase marketing and promotions of the destination, including more exposure on digital and social media channels for airlines, incentives for extra flights, and support for travel agencies and online travel agencies.

The MVA has already initiated a series of crisis management activities through its Korea office. A press release in January announcing the Marianas as a COVID-19-free destination and the suspension of flights from China was covered in 33 articles across travel trade and general audience media. Announcement of Saipan as the reward vacation destination chosen by popular Korean drama *Stove League* generated 293 media articles, while a reward vacation destination article by drama "Dr. Romantic" gen-

erated 39 media articles.

In addition, the celebrity show *Soccer Adventure* filmed on Saipan is now airing, while *Those Cross the Lines Returns* will air in March. Both shows

are each anticipated to reach 2 million people per episode.

Facebook and Instagram notifications on the Marianas' virus-free status have also been circulated. (MVA)

13 recognized as 'Women of Action'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen women were recognized last Saturday as "Women of Action" as part of the celebration of International Women's Day at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The honorees were all recognized for surmounting obstacles through grit and motivation to become a better version of themselves.

The honorees were Rose T. Rios, detective at the Department of Public Safety; Lorna B. Liban, instructor at the Northern Marianas College; Victoria Reyes, compliance ranger at the Department of Public Lands; Dorene M. Kintol, HOPE Recovery Center Clinical manager; Nympha D. Sharts, surveillance operator at the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Nadia L. Saralu, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician; Georgia M. Cabrera, a director at the Department of Corrections; Maria L. Olopai, community development specialist at the Department of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; Beth B. Demapan, technical service librarian at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; Tina M. Aguon, administrative officer at the Department of Public Works; Jessica M. Pangelinan, crisis counselor at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.; Monika H Diaz of NMC's Tinian campus; and Aubry M. Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office.

The 13 were chosen from among a raft of nominees by three judges: first lady Diann Torres; Wella Palacios, the wife of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; and Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, special adviser of the Women's Affairs Office.

According to Claudia Flores, who is the program coordinator of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, out of 12 honorees, three particularly stood out for the judges—that of the stories of Rios, Liban, and Reyes—who best fit the description of "a woman who, despite going through hardships, has become the woman she is today and in the position

she is in now."

Torres, Palacios, and Camacho-Ogumoro specifically picked Reyes' story to share at the event. According to Reyes' nomination, as submitted by Deveney Dela Cruz, Reyes suffered through the loss of both parents within the span of six years and tried to cope with the pain of her parents' divorce by using alcohol and drugs, yet managed to pull herself together, obtained a position at DPL, and has been completely sober for over a year. Although she never made it past the 10th grade and had to be pulled out of school due to being overaged, Reyes is now continuing her education by attending classes at the Northern Marianas College.

Growing up, Reyes was a good student, had good grades but to say that she was shocked when she was told that her parents were getting divorced was an understatement. "I took it really hard because I had everything and I was really close with both of my parents," she said.

From junior high school to middle school, Reyes dealt with the pain by finding ways to escape from her reality through alcohol and drugs. That led to her not being able to graduate from high school. A year later, Reyes lost her dad to cancer. A few years later, her mom followed, nine days before her birthday.

Three months later, after Super Typhoon Yutu, Reyes took the initiative to apply for the Workforce Investment Agency and within one month, she got an internship at DPL as a compliance ranger. Fast forward to today, Reyes has been sober for over a year, paid off her car loan, and is back in school. Even more, Reyes feels confident that she will go even further in life.

In the souvenir booklet at Saturday's event, it quoted Reyes as saying, "Don't just think about the problems you're having today. Think about tomorrow because tomorrow could be the day where you get up and change. It takes one thing in your life that will change the person you are, and prayer definitely helps."



Gov. Ralph DLGo Torres, second left, leads the Marianas delegation in meeting with Asiana Airlines on Feb. 21, 2020, to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on travel to the destination. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority board director Jerry Tan, Torres, president & CEO of Asiana Airlines Chang Soo Han, and executive vice president of Asiana Airlines Young Heon Kim.

MVA



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, leads the Marianas delegation in meeting with Jeju Air on Feb. 21, 2020, to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on travel to the destination. Pictured are Digital Sale Department director Kyoung Pyo Go; Marianas Visitors Authority vice chair Gloria Cavanagh; MVA board director Jerry Tan; managing director, Commercial Division Myung Sub Yoo; Torres; MVA board director Warren Villagomez; MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo; Chan Ho Hong; Se Jin Kim; and head of Route Marketing Team Won Seok Yang.

MVA



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third from right, leads the Marianas delegation in meeting with Mode Tour on Feb. 21, 2020, to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on travel to the destination.

MVA



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, meets with president & CEO of Mode Tour In Tae Yu on Feb. 21, 2020, to discuss ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on travel on the Marianas.

MVA

Karidat: 36% rise in food assistance in Feb.

Karidat Social Services helped about 500 people with food assistance last month, according to Lauri Ogumoro, the Catholic social service organization's executive director.

For the month of February alone, Karidat saw a 36% increase in the number of people seeking food assistance, she

said. She expects this number to go up and not just with food assistance.

"Due to the reduced income, people will be asking for rental assistance as well," she said.

By March 15, the CNMI government will start implementing Austerity Fridays,

which means no government offices on Fridays, and this is expected to result in more hardships for people affected. The local economy is in freefall as the coronavirus outbreak in China has resulted in a drop in tourism numbers from the CNMI's main markets of China and Korea.

"We are really concerned about the broader community and how folks depend on Karidat, so we try and think of solutions to help," Ogumoro said.

The main problem is that, by March 31, Karidat will run out of funds and will be completely dependent on donations and canned food drives, Ogumoro said. Karidat has reached out to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to ask parishes to conduct canned food drives to help restock their pantry. Also, Karidat has put together a grant application to Catholic Charities to get additional funding, not only for the economic crisis brought by the COVID-19 outbreak but also from the lingering effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the CNMI in October 2018.

Anyone will be eligible to ask for help from Karidat, but Ogumoro said that they will prioritize people who've been severely affected by shortened hours and layoffs.

Karidat is currently only giving out food and some rental assistance. They will also be having a thrift shop that is going to open as soon as they are ready to go.

"We are looking for volunteers to help because of a very small staff," she added.

(Chevy Alipio)

Volunteers sought for March 14 caucus

This Saturday, March 14, 2020, the NMI Democratic Party will host its 2nd Presidential Caucus in the CNMI and is inviting volunteers to participate in this event.

Volunteers are needed to assist with caucus registration, ballot access, ballot tabulation, voter file registry, and other necessary duties.

To participate, you must be a U.S. citizen or a resident of the Northern Mariana Islands, and 18 years of age or eligible to vote on or before Nov. 3, 2020.

Those interested can text the word "volunteer" to 484-DEMS (3367) or visit their website, www.nmidems.org, to learn more and register as a volunteer today.

Caucus members on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be able to visit the designated caucus voting sites, register to vote if they haven't already, register with the party, and cast votes for their Democratic Presidential Candidate of choice.

As of March 6, former vice president Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont are the final presidential candi-

dates for the NMI caucus. The caucus will be held on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses at the following locations: Northern Marianas College Rota Center Room B2-VTC Room and NMC Tinian Center Room C-VTC Room. Doors will open at 5pm, with the doors closing for the caucuses to begin promptly at 6pm.

"There is no better time to get involved in politics and we're excited to witness such positive feedback from members of the community, college students, and future voters. They've seen the historic voter turnout across the country in last week's Super Tuesday and I agree—it's time to get on board. Although we cannot vote for President of the United States, we do have a say in the nominee with our caucus event and I encourage our community to show up and participate," said NMI Democratic Party chair Nola Kileleman Hix.

She said there will be lots of giveaways and other caucus activities for participants. (PR)



Hix

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of)
the Estate of)
HERMAN MUNA)
MANGLONA,) CIVIL ACTION
also known as) NO. 20-0093
HERMAN M.)
MANGLONA,)
SR., Deceased.)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Diego M. Masga has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Herman Muna Manglona, also known as Herman M. Manglona Sr., deceased; and that the said petition will be heard by the Court on March 26, 2020, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Herman Muna Manglona, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated: March 06, 2020

/s/ HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO,
Associate Judge



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & DORMITORY BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2020-X-030

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building along Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Calvary International Mission is proposing to construct a three story building with a basement including an athlete area, office spaces, storage rooms, locker rooms, restrooms, utility rooms, classrooms and dormitories, 41 parking stalls with landscaping, and a generator room. The project will be situated on a privately leased property identified as Lot No. 012 D 70, an area of about 4,890 square meters.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, March 30, 2020, at 5PM, along Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan, at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB20-GOV-064

Supply and Installation of Desk Cubicles for the Office of Management and Budget, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Capital Improvement Program

The project package will be available for pick up at the Hazard Mitigation Office located at the Office of the Governor in Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning **Thursday, March 5, 2020**. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Monday, March 16, 2020 10:00 am ChST** at the Hazard Mitigation Office Conference Room located at the Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Tiana Reyes in writing by e-mail to treyes@omb.gov.mp or fax to (670) 664-2408 on or before **Thursday, March 19, 2020**. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-064 Supply and Installation of Desk Cubicles for the Office of Management and Budget, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Capital Improvement Program**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST April 2, 2020**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST April 2, 2020** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 2, 2020** and mailed to the **Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. BOX 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950** and the bid documents must be received no later than **April 15, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:00 a.m. ChST, April 15, 2020**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST, April 2, 2020**.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 15, 2020. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 2, 2020.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

We've entered the coronavirus economy



As hard as it may be to believe, cheap gas isn't always a good thing. For instance, after Saudi Arabia announced a deep discount in its crude oil prices, global stock markets plummeted, with the Dow dropping nearly 8% Monday. If history is any guide, gas prices will recover from this clobbering far sooner than the value of your 401(k). The stocks on the S&P 500 index have now lost a collective \$5 trillion since the index's peak just a few weeks ago, suggesting that the 11-year bull market may finally have turned bearish.

It's a mistake to conflate the stock market with the economy, but in this case, it's hard to miss the red flags investors are waving. They're signaling that the outbreak of the novel coronavirus is causing problems that are large and far-reaching enough to trip up the formidable U.S. economy. Sure, they may be overreacting, and public health officials may find a way soon to slow a virus, which has been detected in more than half of the 50 states. At this point, however, it's hard to tell whether investors are being panicky or prudent.

Here's the connection between Monday's sell-off and coronavirus. Government- and business-imposed travel restrictions and consumer worries about contracting COVID-19 have cut the demand for fuel, leading to a glut in supply and a 30% drop in crude oil prices as of last week. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the cartel of nations whose economies depend on oil sales, proposed cutting oil

See CORONAVIRUS on Next Page



How to sing 'Happy Birthday' during an epidemic

I was already a hand washer. Ever since I became a parent 25 years ago, I've cleaned my hands with soap and water several times a day. As anyone who has spent time around kids will tell you, they can be not only messy but also dirty, and they often get one another sick. A regular regimen at the sink can go a long way toward self-protection.

My kids are grown, but the hand-washing habit remains. And since the spread of coronavirus, it's been kicked into overdrive.

I don't consider myself panicked about COVID-19, although I'd be lying if I said I wasn't concerned. I live in an enormous city, packed with people, including countless travelers, and I understand how easily a contagious virus spreads. Still, even with daily upticks in the number of local cases and news of California deaths, the overall risk of infection and serious illness remains—for the moment, anyway—low.

And hand washing, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as California Gov. Gavin Newsom and even Vice President Mike Pence, keeps saying, may help us to keep it like that. The hard part has to do with the duration. "Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds," the CDC website admonishes. "Need a timer? Hum the 'Happy Birthday' song from beginning to end twice."

I don't know about you, but I can't help feeling ridiculous, standing in the bathroom, gazing at my face in the mirror, as I wash my hands and sing "Happy Birthday"—usually "to me"—twice under my breath.

For that reason, perhaps, I found myself wanting to speed through it at first. I had to force myself to slow down to approximate a birthday party pace. Eventually, however, I got used to it. A couple of run-throughs of "Happy Birthday" started to seem, well, natural.

The turning point came with a slight, unconscious tweak on the lyrics. After a few days, I added three words to the routine: "And many more."

That's the way we do "Happy Birthday" in my family. I've used the line so many times, over so many years and birthdays, that without it, the ritual feels incomplete. Its emergence during my hand-washing routine is a reminder that humans adapt to extreme situations by normalizing (or trying to) the unknown. Why not sing the song, in other words, the way I really sing the song?

By **DAVID L. ULIN**

Los Angeles Times

David L. Ulin is a contributing writer to Los Angeles Times Opinion.



These days, of course, those habitual words have particular resonance. What I am doing, after all, when I add "and many more," is making a plea: Let us stay safe and alive. It's a secular entreaty—not unlike the Spanish expression *ojala*, which the essayist Richard Rodriguez recalled his mother saying at "every private leave-taking." "Its meaning," writes Rodriguez, "is something like I pray it may be so."

I am an adult, cognizant of random chance and uncertainty. I've come to recognize that insecurity, chaos even, is the way of the world. In the face of an epidemic stretching toward a pandemic, I have one eye on living as if there will be no exceptional disruptions, and the other on preparing for catastrophe. What I'm saying is that I do not generally rely on magical thinking.

I have laid in supplies: peanut butter and water and dry goods, cold medicine and zinc tablets and soap. I have food for the animals. I'm in regular touch with my children as they go about their adult lives. They groan at me when I ask, as I used to do when they were younger, when they last washed their hands. But now I am consciously singing "and many more" when I fulfill the CDC's instructions about how to wash my hands. Let us call it a means of reassurance, even (or especially) if I do not, cannot, feel particularly reassured.

I offer it to you as well, this coping mechanism, this precaution, this projection of a happy ending, which is, of course, a whisper of faith, not in divine intervention but in our ability to care for one another and ourselves.

This is how I've come to think of it, at any rate, each of the many times a day—six, eight, 10, a dozen—I sing "Happy Birthday" and scrub my hands to try and wash away the dread.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why aren't we paying people with the coronavirus to stay home?

The rapid passage of an \$8.3-billion emergency spending plan to fight the spread and severity of the coronavirus shows that Congress and the president are willing to set aside their petty partisanship in the face of the emerging health threat.

That's reassuring.

What's not is that they left out of the funding package an important tool to fight the spread of COVID-19: paying people with coronavirus symptoms to stay home from work.

The dollars will go to vaccine and therapeutics development, protective equipment for health care workers, support for local public health departments and hospitals fighting outbreaks and help for global health efforts. But there's no earmark for payments for people who may contract the virus but can't afford to take a day off.

That's a problem because, with the coronavirus apparently now freely circulating throughout the U.S., public health officials are asking people who have a fever, cough and other symptoms of the novel virus to stay home from work.

For people like me who work in companies that offer paid sick leave or in jobs that can be done remotely, it's not a hardship to stay at home to nurse a cough in case it is not just a seasonal cold. But for the 32 million American workers who lack paid

sick leave benefits, most of them in low-wage service industry or gig economy jobs, it's a completely different calculus—and one that doesn't add up to good public health policy.

For one thing, about 80% of the cases of coronavirus are mild and may appear to be just a cold. A lot of us simply power through a cold and go to work anyhow. And while it might be the wrong thing to do during the outbreak of a new virus that has no vaccine and few treatment options, it may not be feasible for people living paycheck to paycheck. It's not fair to make low-wage workers choose between the real risk of not having enough money for the rent and the theoretical one of spreading an invisible contagion.

That's why public health officials and Congress should be talking about directing some of that \$8.3 billion toward an emergency paid sick leave program to subsidize workers who want to do the right thing and keep their germs to themselves but can't afford to.

(Later, we should move toward permanent federal paid sick leave. States like California and Washington have laws guaranteeing it to most workers, but most states don't. It's appalling that the U.S. lacks such a basic public health benefit for hard-working people.)

I know it's politically difficult to talk about expanding federal

By MARIEL GARZA

Los Angeles Times



Mariel Garza is a member of the Los Angeles Times editorial board.

benefit programs for low-income workers, but this is one case in which a small handout could make everyone safer. If we can spend \$1 billion on global health efforts, surely we can find some funds to pay sick Americans to stay home. Frankly, I'm surprised that, given the advanced age of the people running our government, this hasn't even been part of the funding discussion.

But it should be, because here's the harsh reality: This outbreak favors the young. People over 60 are much more likely to get seriously ill and die from the COVID-19 illness than younger adults. And guess who makes up most of the people in food service jobs? Don't we want to encourage them not to come to work sick?

Coronavirus perfect excuse for my campaign against salad bars and ladle lickers

Even with all the media attention on coronavirus, we're missing the really big story:

Those disgusting hot food bars and salad bars at various supermarkets and food courts near you.

People put their hands on the lettuce. They cough on the olives. Multiple hands touch the ladles and spoons.

And government does nothing.

Consider that video that went viral before the coronavirus outbreak. It was of a man at the hot food bar at a grocery store, slurping cream of broccoli soup from the ladle. He put his lips and tongue all over that ladle.

Then he put the ladle back into the soup.

Don't tell me the ladle licker is some isolated case. I'm a germaphobe who grew up in the grocery store business, and I've seen some things.

That's why I've always hated salad and hot food bars. The ladle lickers are out there, and you know it.

Coronavirus is serious business. I'm not mocking what could be a pandemic. The government—national, state and local—tell us not to panic.

But I'm a news consumer too, and how can you consume endless stories about quarantines, canceled conventions, canceled sporting events, empty hotels and offices, no personal cups at Starbucks, and not feel nervous?

And I'm trying to add my own warning about those hot food and salad bars that are out there.

Since many liberal journalists are politically weaponizing the new coronavirus—one columnist at the New York Times wants to call it "Trumpvirus"—I might as well join the club and use the virus for my own political purposes.

I want those salad/hot bars wiped off the face of the earth because they have always bothered me, even before the coronavirus panic.

Why hasn't the government outlawed them? Why hasn't that soup sipper been arrested?

And what's the proper deterrent?

I'd ship him to North Korea. If he tried it there—even if they did have food—his entire family would be gone by now.

The problem with contagious viruses is that people panic because they know that others don't follow the rules, like the guy with the ladle.

Yes, it would be an overreaction to go medieval on the guy and lop off his hand and take his tongue. We are not living in the Dark Ages, yet, despite what Sen. Chuck Schumer is trying to do to the republic. This isn't "Game of Thrones."

This is still the land of the free. Clearly, nothing would say "You're not free to lick the ladle" like a large pile of hands and a smaller, neater pile of pink tongues. But we are Americans, not bloodthirsty psychos.

Let's just send the ladle lickers to North Korea.

That soup slurper was captured on video a couple of years ago in pre-coronavirus Chicago. But so what? Human nature doesn't change. Remember those stories of barbarians caught licking ice cream, digging their tongues right in the vanilla before putting it back in the grocer's freezer. Need I say more?

Don't tell me people don't reach into a salad bar and grab strawberries with their fingers "just to see if they're sweet." You ever work in a grocery store? You'd find peach pits in among the radicchio.

"I was at a salad bar at our local store and I was going to get some lettuce," said a responsible journalist. "Another customer whispered, 'Don't touch the lettuce. See that woman over there? She just put her hands all over it.'"

See what I mean?

To report this story, I visited a grocery store and spotted a nice fellow standing at the hot bar. He was spooning out some disgusting public vegetables for himself.

By JOHN KASS

Chicago Tribune



John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at jkass@chicagotribune.com.

"Vegetable medley," he said weakly, and smiled.

Vegetable medley sucks, but I didn't say anything. I just stared at him, silently. He edged away.

An epidemiologist on a news site said we must be careful about the utensils at food bars.

"I would say that things like salad bars, you know, we will have to be very diligent about what are touching and all of these utensils that many people might be touching," said Dr. Michael Mina, assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard University. "That would be where I would see the risk of the transmission occurring, more so than the food that we are actually eating."

Food that we are actually eating? There's no "we" here. You eat it. I won't touch it.

Then I called the health department of a large Midwestern city on a lake. No, it wasn't Cleveland.

"While at this time we're not recommending shutting down salad bars and self-serve food stations, we continue to monitor this situation very closely," said the health official.

He said wash your hands, don't touch your face, stay home if sick, get a flu shot and cover all those coughs and sneezes.

And I'd like to add this: Please don't sneeze on the lettuce.

And keep your darn lips off the ladle.

SENATOR

From Page 8

production to try to push prices back up, but the plan was scuttled Friday when Russia, the world's third-largest oil producer, balked.

Saudi Arabia, the world's second-largest producer, responded over the weekend by cutting its crude prices sharply—a move that analysts say was meant to punish Russia and grab a larger share of the market. Yet one clear loser is the U.S. oil and gas industry, which had ridden the fracking wave to become the world's top producer.

Because it typically costs more to extract oil from U.S. shale beds than from Middle Eastern sands, it's hard for U.S. energy companies to compete when prices are as low as Saudi Arabia is pushing them. And when U.S. oil and gas producers pull back, it has ripple effects on their employees, on the companies that do business with them and on the communities where they operate. That's why investors were especially tough Monday on the stocks of companies, such as Halliburton and Schlumberger, that supply equipment to U.S. oil fields.

It's funny, but it wasn't that long ago when lower gas prices

would have been celebrated from coast to coast. That was before the shale oil explosion helped the United States end its dependence on foreign oil. One unfortunate byproduct, however, is that the U.S. economy no longer thrives on lower oil prices. True independence from foreign oil cartels will come not from fracking, but from a far greater investment in renewable energy supplies.

Economists, too, worry that the domestic oil industry's slowdown could be a harbinger of another downturn in U.S. manufacturing. The sector hit a rough patch in the first six months of 2019, but consumer spending was strong enough then to keep the U.S. economy growing. Thanks to the coronavirus, however, a number of headwinds are building.

The tourism industry is tanking. Events are being canceled right and left, pulling countless dollars out of the host communities and, in the case of business conferences, wiping out the deal-making that many companies rely on. A wide range of industries with China-linked supply chains are running out of products and parts. Restaurants, theaters, concert promoters and other businesses that rely on consumers venturing out in public are starting to feel the pinch.

The plunge in the markets can only make matters worse. The

"wealth effect" of the rising stock market helped spur consumers to borrow and spend more, with household debt hitting a record \$14 trillion earlier this year. The market's plunge could promote the opposite reaction, further crimping consumer spending.

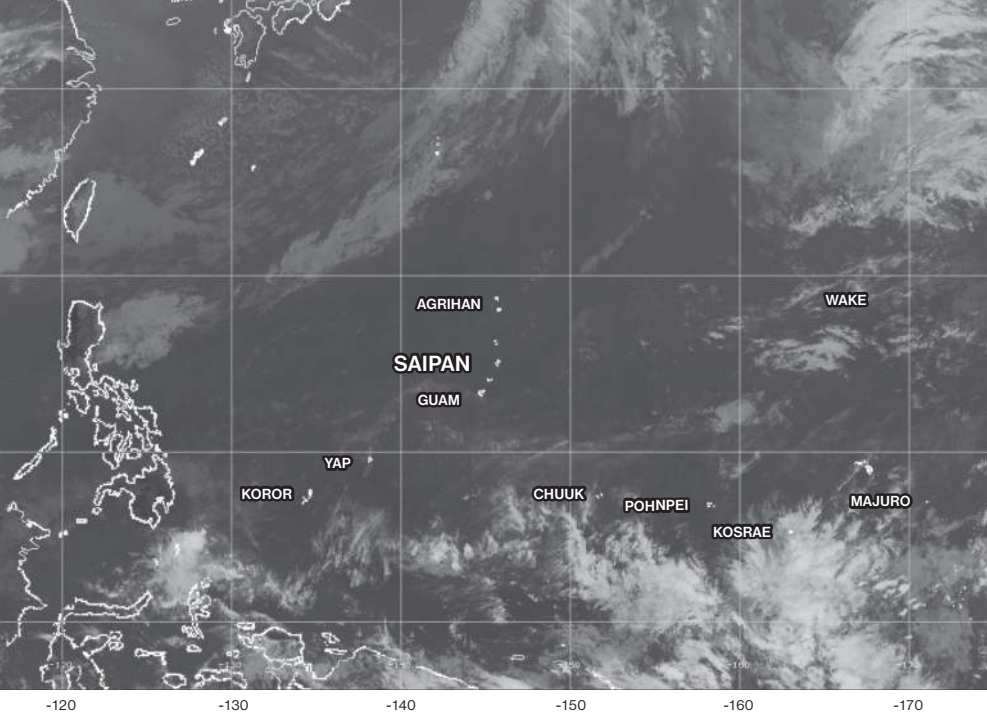
As last Friday's jobs report shows, the U.S. economy was chugging along at a decent clip through February. And there are signs that China may have COVID-19 under control, potentially allowing that country's manufacturers to get back on track and easing the strain on supply chains and global demand.

So if health officials succeed in halting the spread of the coronavirus here, then the episode may pass with a relatively small number of casualties, human or corporate. Still, it would help if federal and state governments started looking at the virus as more than just a health issue, and got ready to respond accordingly. President Donald Trump said Monday he would be taking several proposals to Congress aimed at boosting consumer spending and helping workers who don't have paid sick leave, and that's a good place to start the conversation.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A very dry trade-wind pattern will continue for the next week. Mostly sunny skies with only a few light showers expected through at least the middle of next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Windy	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Windy	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Windy	70° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	54° / 30°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
London	Partly Cloudy	50° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Thunderstorms	70° / 56°	
Manila	Sunny	93° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	81° / 54°	
Miami	Sunny	80° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	53° / 46°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Paris	Showers	54° / 39°	
Busan	Sunny	54° / 37°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°	
Salem	Cloudy	77° / 60°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 47°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	46° / 25°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:33 AM	LOW TIDE	0.06	
9:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97	
4:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.23	
9:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	-	8:23 AM	9:05 PM
Friday	-	9:10 AM	10:05 PM
Saturday	-	9:58 AM	11:05 PM
Sunday	-	10:48 AM	-
Sunday	12:04 AM	11:39 AM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Women's History Month at American Memorial Park

Join the American Memorial Park in celebrating Women's History Month. The park will be hosting several events highlighting extraordinary women and their World War II stories.

Everyone is invited to explore the museum and the three temporary learning centers. Each center has activities for all to enjoy including paper crane folding at the Sadako center, learning about Rosie the Riveter in the Rosie center and folding your own *Canary* plane at the Amelia Earhart center.

On March 28, youth ages 5-10 are invited to participate in the *Icons of World War II*:

Women in History program from 9am to 2pm at the Visitor Center. Pre-registration for this learning program is required. To sign up your child, contact park rangers at the Visitor Center at 234-7207 x 2020 or email saipaned@pacifichistoricparks.org.

At 2pm on March 28, the park will host a discussion panel featuring local women living in the Northern Mariana Islands during World War II. This is an exciting and rare opportunity for our community to hear accounts of women war survivors.

The park will also show movies featuring important

roles of women throughout World War II. The schedule for these free screenings will run as follows:

■ Saturday, March 14, 2020: 2pm, *The Zookeeper's Wife*

■ Saturday, March 21, 2020: 2pm, *Amelia*

■ Saturday, March 28, 2020: 3:30pm, *A League of Their Own*

Visit our non-profit partner, Pacific Historic Parks bookstore for discounted Rosie the Riveter items throughout March. Sales support the park's interpretive and educational programs. (NPS)

TV Tokyo Network airs Saipan special



The cast of TV Tokyo Network's upcoming special "The Best Weekend Resort with Direct Flight: Let's See All the Superb Views in Saipan Within 48 Hours!" film at Ladder Beach on Feb. 19, 2020. From left are Hideyuki Nakayama, Reiko Kato, Miki Nishino, and Shizuyo Yamazaki. MVA

TV Aichi and TV Tokyo Network aired a special program featuring the Marianas last March 7, bringing the destination approximately \$900,000 in media exposure to over 40 million households across the country.

TV Aichi filmed on Saipan on Feb. 16-21, 2020, and highlighted beautiful scenic points, popular activities, events, sites and food in the program titled "The Best Weekend Resort with Direct Flight: Let's See All the Superb Views in Saipan Within 48 Hours!" The familiarization tour was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"Five days is a day or two longer than the usual [familiarization] tour, so we're happy to see TXN's interest in Saipan and to have their support in promoting the destination across Japan," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Visitor arrivals from Japan have remained relatively consistent since the launch of direct flights by Skymark Airlines Inc. in November, and we aim to continue and grow this number through more [familiarization] tours and other marketing and promotions."

Activities covered by the film crew included stargazing, sky diving, a self-driving tour, UTV tour, Garapan Street Market, Sabalu Market, Managaha tour, and spa and relaxation at Shirodhara and Natural Scrub.

Gourmet experiences were explored at Country House



TV Aichi (TV Tokyo Network) films at Country House Restaurant in Garapan, Saipan, last Feb. 18, 2020, for the special "The Best Weekend Resort with Direct Flight: Let's See All the Superb Views in Saipan Within 48 Hours!" that aired on March 7, 2020. MVA



Reiko Kato of TV Tokyo Network's upcoming special "The Best Weekend Resort with Direct Flight: Let's See All the Superb Views in Saipan Within 48 Hours!" takes a UTV tour last Feb. 19, 2020. MVA

Restaurant, The Shack, and Salty's. Filming also included Micro Beach, Grotto, and

shopping at I Love Saipan.

The group lodged at Kensington Hotel Saipan. (PR)

MVA holds annual Marianas seminars in Japan

The Marianas Visitors Authority presented its annual Marianas Seminar & Workshop series in Japan last month, touting direct, daily service by Skymark Airlines in a bid to woo Japanese travelers at a time when tourism is declining globally due to COVID-19.

The seminars promoted the Marianas to travel trade representatives and introduced new marketing plans, including upcoming campaigns and events. This year's seminars were attended by 42 participants in Osaka on Feb. 25, 35 participants in Nagoya on Feb. 26, and 87 participants in Tokyo on Feb. 28.

The seminars also play a critical role in informing the market of new attractions, activities, dining options and hotel properties in the Marianas and provide an opportunity for MVA members to conduct one-on-one meetings with key travel partners in Japan.

In her welcoming remarks, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo highlighted several benefits of travelling to the Marianas, including year-round warm weather, numerous sports activities, and the destination's COVID-19-free status.

"At this time, perhaps most importantly, we do not have any confirmed or suspected reports of the novel coronavirus in the Marianas," Iakopo assured attendees. "This is also an important consideration for the travelling public at this time, and we all hope



Marianas Visitors Authority board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, center, and MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, left, meet with a travel trade representative at the Marianas Seminar & Workshop on Feb. 28, 2020, in Tokyo. MVA

and pray for the quick end of this outbreak."

Tourism partners that participated in the seminars were Aqua Resort Club; Asiana Airlines; E-Land Group, including Kensington Hotel Saipan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Grandvrio Resort Saipan; Hyatt Regency Saipan; Imperial Pacific International; Laolao Bay Golf & Resort; Pau Pau Tours; Pacific Development Inc.; Saipan In-Vitro Fertilization; Skymark Airlines; TanHoldings, including Century Hotel, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Kanoa Resort; T Galleria Saipan by DFS; and Furosato Restaurant.

On Feb. 27, MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, board director Nick Nishikawa, Iakopo, and representatives of MVA's Japan representative office made sales calls to JTB, Skymark, and

H.I.S. to thank the companies for their continued support of the Marianas and to discuss how to tackle the current tourism challenge.

Along with the seminar and workshop, the MVA published a six-page special issue in the Feb. 24 edition of *Wing Travel Weekly*, one of the leading travel trade newspapers in Japan. The publication's circulation is 8,900 copies, and it is also distributed to travel industry members online. The special issue covered this year's MVA's marketing strategy, with emphasis on "Sports Islands: The Marianas" and Skymark's direct services from Tokyo to Saipan. Extra copies were distributed to Marianas Seminar & Workshop 2020 participants and will be used in upcoming B2B promotional and marketing programs. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority and Marianas tourism partners promote the destination to travel trade representatives at the Marianas Seminar & Workshop on Feb. 28, 2020, in Tokyo. Additional seminars were held in Osaka and Nagoya. MVA



Marianas Visitors Authority officials meet with Skymark Airlines representative director, president, and executive officer Hayao Hora, second from left, in Tokyo, Japan, on Feb. 27, 2020. From left are MVA board director Nick Nishikawa, Hora, MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, and Skymark senior managing director and executive officer Katsuya Kato. MVA

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\$169⁹⁵

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Business

PUERTO RICO BENTO RESTAURANT

Making simple food excellent

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With only hope and perseverance to rely on, Angelina “Angie” De Andres opened Puerto Rico Bento Restaurant with her son Antonio Lastimado in 2012.

She originally took over another restaurant, but the doors closed because she could not afford payment. Nevertheless, De Andres saw a window of opportunity and decided to put up her own restaurant from the bottom up.

“We started a bento or take-out place with very limited items... our motto was ‘make simple food, excellent.’ Since we cannot afford to employ people, there were only the two of us and we worked side by side. Two years in the business, I had to go back to the Philippines and with the help of family and friends, my mother was able to manage and make the business grow,” Lastimado said.

“She did *turo-turo* style where customers point to the food they want and events catering. She would work from 3am to sunset and sometimes up to 10-11pm. The restaurant that she took over prior to our restaurant was offering bento food boxes that is why there’s ‘bento’ in the restaurant’s name and that carried on to the new restaurant. Later on, we had customers who wanted to dine-in and eat on plates that is how our current concept came to be,” Lastimado added.

Currently, De Andres is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Puerto Rico Bento Restaurant’s best-selling empanadas.

back in the Philippines and Lastimado together with his wife, Angelica, who is a culinary graduate from Northern Marianas Technical Institute and worked as a cook at Hyatt Regency Saipan, are managing the business.

“Aside from the best-tasting Filipino dishes that we offer, we are also known for our

empanadas, lumpiang shanghai, and puto. We cook all the dishes like how we want it, capturing the true taste of Filipino food,” Angelica said.

“In terms of affordability, you can count on us. We cater to the working class—construction workers, government employees, and people in the private sector. For only \$6 you get two choices, \$4 for one choice, and if you only want the viand, it is \$3.25. Our customers vary from locals, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, and so on,” she added.

Seafood, beef, pork, chicken, and pasta dishes in food party trays or special orders are also available for small or big events, parties or meetings.

“Customers can request a dish that is not included in our menu as long as we know how to cook it. We try our best to accommodate the

For more information, send them a message on Facebook or call 285-0056 and 322-0007.

“The world is facing a medical emergency that monetary and fiscal policy cannot fix,” said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg private bank.

The best policymakers can do for the economy is to prevent the virus from dealing prolonged damage even after the outbreak ends, to keep small- and medium-sized companies that provide most of the jobs in the economy from going out of business due to a short-term issue beyond their control.

Among the most affected are companies involved in travel. The number of people going through European airports is expected to fall by 187 million this year.



BEA CABRERA

The team behind Puerto Rico Bento Restaurant’s success is life and business partners Antonio and Angelica Lastimado.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rico Bento Restaurant is located along Middle Road in Puerto Rico.

needs of our customers,” Angelica said.

“One of the best compliments that we received was that we have the best Filipino food on island and that is coming from a local. Another compliment is when Japanese or Korean customers order party trays. It is nice to know that our food is being served in private parties and things like that inspire us to be the best

that we can be,” she added.

According to Antonio, future plans include opening another branch. “We want to expand to another location and cater not only to locals, but also to tourists as we want them to eat the best-tasting Filipino food on island. We also want to try offering *ala carte* style but this we believe will happen at the right time,” he said.

“We are in the phase in our

business that we just want to be a part of the community and not all profit anymore. Helping and reaching out to share the traditions that my mother started. She was mindful of people who are in need,” he added.

Puerto Rico Bento Restaurant is located along Middle Road in Puerto Rico. For more information, send them a message on Facebook or call 285-0056 and 322-0007.

Facing recession, Europe grasps for ways to limit damage

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Suddenly staring recession in the face, European leaders are lining up an array of tax breaks, financial support for companies and likely central bank measures in the hope of preventing the coronavirus outbreak from dealing long-term damage to the economy.

Expectations have grown that European Central Bank officials will announce more monetary stimulus when they meet Thursday, including an interest rate cut and corporate bond purchases aimed at supporting business borrowing.

And the European Commission says it plans to bring forward existing funding to create a 25 billion-euro (\$28 billion) investment fund to support the

health care system, businesses and labor market measures.

Yet any such actions will likely be more damage limitation than cure. Monetary stimulus and government spending can spur demand for goods. But the coronavirus deals a shock from the supply side by closing businesses and making people stay home, highlighted by Italy’s dramatic decision this week to limit travel and public gatherings across the country. Lower interest rates or tax cuts cannot solve that.

Meanwhile, action to help the 19 countries that use the euro currency faces constraints from the lack of a large central treasury, a hurdle other large economies like the U.S. and China do not face.

Airlines slash flights, freeze hiring as virus cuts travel

Airlines are slashing flights, freezing hiring and parking planes to cope with a stunning drop in bookings and a rise in cancellations caused by fear over the new virus outbreak.

Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly says the outbreak might be worse for airlines than the terror attacks of 2001. An industry trade group believes it will be more damaging.

Delta Air Lines said Tuesday that travel demand has fallen so sharply in the past week that it expects one-third of seats to be empty this month on flights within the United States, which was insulated from virus fallout for a time.

United Airlines expects to

lose money in the first quarter for the first time in six years. United said ticket sales in the U.S. have dropped 25% in recent days—70% after subtracting cancellations—and it’s even worse in Asia and Europe.

Business travelers are grounded as meetings and conferences are canceled. Leisure travelers are scared.

Normally airlines try to lure reluctant travelers by cutting fares, but that won’t work with the COVID-19 outbreak.

“If you are scared of flying, you are probably scared at any price,” said Delta President Glen Hauenstein.

Delta, the world’s big-

gest airline by revenue, said net bookings declined 25% to 30% in the past two weeks and could get worse. It will cut international flights by 20% to 25% and reduce U.S. flying by 10% to 15%, roughly matching cuts previously announced by United Airlines.

Delta is parking some planes, cutting spending, freezing hiring, offering voluntary unpaid leave, delaying voluntary pension contributions and suspending share buybacks.

American Airlines announced it will cut international flying by 10% this summer and reduce U.S. flying by 7.5% in April. It has delayed training of new pilots and flight attendants.

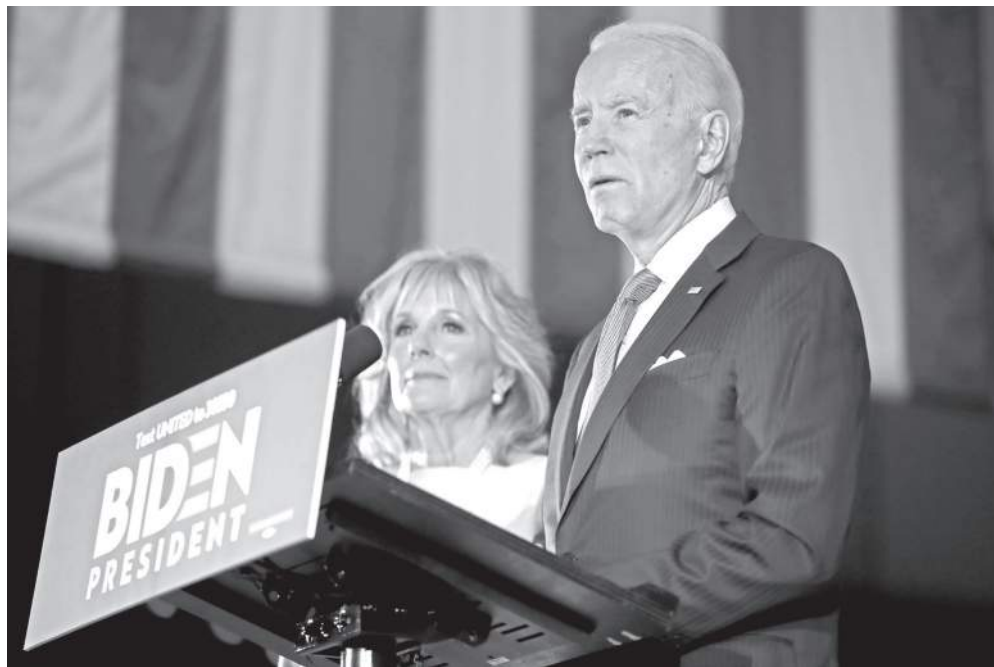
Nation

Biden has another big primary night, wins 4 more states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden decisively won Michigan's Democratic presidential primary on Tuesday, seizing a key battleground state that helped propel Bernie Sanders' insurgent candidacy four years ago. The former vice president's victory there, as well as in Missouri, Mississippi and Idaho, dealt a serious blow to Sanders and substantially widened Biden's path to the nomination.

Biden again showed strength with working-class voters and African Americans, who are vital to winning the Democratic nomination. Sanders' narrow hopes for good news rested on North Dakota and Washington state. Washington's primary was too early to call, and because all votes there are cast by mail or by dropping them off in a ballot box, many ballots were marked for candidates who have since dropped out of the race.

The six-state contest marked the first time voters weighed in on the primary since it effectively narrowed to a two-person race between Sanders and Biden. And the first four states on Tuesday went to Biden, a dramatic reversal for a campaign that appeared on the brink of collapse just two weeks ago. Now it is Sanders,



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden, accompanied by his wife Jill, speaks to members of the press at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

whose candidacy was ascendant so recently, who must contemplate a path forward.

Addressing supporters in Philadelphia, Biden noted that many had "declared that this candidacy was dead" only days ago, but "now we're very much alive." He also asked Sanders supporters to back him going forward.

"We need you, we want you, and there's a place in our campaign for each of you. I

want to thank Bernie Sanders and his supporters for their tireless energy and their passion," Biden said. "We share a common goal, and together we'll beat Donald Trump."

It marked a high point for the former vice president's staff. They sipped beer and broke into an impromptu dance party after his speech, which was held close to his Philadelphia headquarters.

Even as the contours of

the race came into shape, however, new uncertainty was sparked by fears of the spreading coronavirus. Both candidates abruptly canceled rallies in Ohio that were scheduled for Tuesday night. That set the stage for Biden's remarks in Philadelphia, while Sanders flew home to Vermont and didn't plan to address the public.

Sanders' campaign also said all future events would be decided on a case-by-case basis given public health concerns, while Biden called off a scheduled upcoming Florida stop. Still, the former vice president said Tuesday night

Views of Biden and Sanders

The percent of Democrats who say the political views of each are ...



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

that he'd be announcing plans to combat the coronavirus later this week.

The Democratic National Committee also said that Sunday's debate between Sanders and Biden would be conducted without an audience.

Among former White House hopefuls and leaders of powerful liberal groups, however, Biden's momentum is now undeniable.

Bradley Beychok, president and co-founder of American Bridge 21st Century, a liberal super PAC, said his group "will be ALL IN to elect @JoeBiden as our next president." The organization is spending millions of dollars trying to win over people who backed President Donald Trump in key states in 2016.

Guy Cecil, chairman of the flagship Democratic outside political organization Priorities USA, tweeted: "The math is now clear. Joe Biden is going to be the Democratic nominee for President and @prioritiesUSA is going to do everything we can to help

him defeat Donald Trump in November."

There were other major warning signs for Sanders on Tuesday. He again struggled to win support from black voters. About 70% of Mississippi's Democratic primary voters were African American, and 86% of them supported Biden, according to an AP VoteCast survey of the electorate.

After Sanders upset Hillary Clinton in Michigan four years ago, his loss there Tuesday was particularly sobering. It undermined his argument that he could appeal to working-class voters and that he could expand the electorate with new young voters.

One of the few bright notes for Sanders was his strength among young voters, but even that has a downside because they didn't turn out enough to keep him competitive. Sanders won 72% of those under 30 in Missouri and 65% in Michigan, according to AP VoteCast. The senator was also about even with Biden among voters ages 30 to 44.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Woman won't explain why she threw son from 4th floor

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota mother has admitted she severely injured her 11-year-old son by throwing him from the balcony of their fourth-floor apartment but has not explained why, police said. Itayvia Lloyd, 33, was charged Tuesday with two counts of assault on a peace officer. Police said she tried to punch one officer and was spitting in the face of another as they took her to the Ramsey County jail for booking. She has not been charged in the Monday attack on her child. He is expected to survive, but suffered injuries including at least one broken leg, a fractured jaw and head injuries, police said. A resident of the St. Paul apartment called police Monday believing the child had jumped from the balcony. Officers found the boy on the ground in the building's courtyard with significant injuries, according to police spokesman Steve Linders. Lloyd admitted that she dragged the boy from his bunk bed and threw him over

the balcony, but did not explain why, Linders said. A 6-year-old sibling in the home appeared to be unharmed. Lloyd's bail was set at \$10,000 and she was due in court Wednesday.

Police recording: California killings defendant cites racism

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A man accused of killing four people in California told detectives in a recorded interview he was fed up with racism against black people and since he was suspected of killing of one white man he may as well kill more. The recording was played Monday in the trial of Kori Ali Muhammad, who could face the death penalty if he is convicted, the Fresno Bee and ABC30 (KFSN-TV) reported. Muhammad, a black man whose defense says he is mentally ill, was recorded by detectives on the day of his arrest in 2017. "I didn't want to do nothing to law enforcement so I just found some white men to kill," Muhammad said to police. He explained on the recording how the killing of motel security

guard Carl Williams III, 25, led to the other three killings.

US border officer charged with smuggling 17 kilos of cocaine

A Customs and Border Protection Officer smuggled more than a dozen bricks of cocaine from the U.S. Virgin Islands into the United States after he was allowed to bypass security because of his job, prosecutors said Tuesday. The scheme was foiled after Ivan Van Beverhoudt's flight arrived at Atlanta's airport and a K-9 sniffed out the drugs in his carry-on luggage on Jan. 10, officials said in a news release. The bricks of cocaine amounted to 17.8 kilograms (39.2 pounds), authorities said. Beverhoudt, 40, of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, was recently arraigned on multiple charges including intending to distribute cocaine and having a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. His lawyer did not immediately return messages seeking comment Tuesday, but court records show that he pleaded not guilty at his arraignment this week. (AP)

Coronavirus clusters swell on both sides of the US

Alarming clusters of the coronavirus swelled on both coasts of the U.S. on Tuesday, with 70 cases now tied to a biotech conference in Boston and infections turning up at 10 nursing homes in the hard-hit Seattle area.

Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden abruptly canceled rallies because of worries about the virus, and New York's governor announced he is sending the National Guard to scrub public places and deliver food in a New York City suburb that is at the center of the nation's biggest known cluster of infections.

On Wednesday, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee will announce a ban on gatherings and events of more than 250 people in virtually the entire Seattle metro area to try to stop the spread of the outbreak, said a person involved in the planning of the decision. The ban would apply to sporting events like Seattle Mariners baseball and Seattle Sounders soccer games.

The order would not prohib-

it the operation of workplaces and is not expected to include school closures, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Santa Clara County in California, home to San Jose and Silicon Valley, on Monday announced a ban on all gatherings of 1,000 people or more.

At least 24 people have died in Washington from COVID-19, most in the Seattle metro area. Nineteen of the deaths are linked to one suburban Seattle nursing home and authorities in King County said the virus has spread to at least 10 long-term care facilities.

Late last month Inslee declared a state of emergency over the virus outbreak. There are more than 260 confirmed cases in the state, most in the three counties that would be affected by Inslee's new order.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency as cases statewide jumped by 51 from the day be-

fore, to 92. Of that number, 70 are now connected to a meeting held last month by biotech company Biogen at a hotel in downtown Boston.

Baker said the state of emergency will give him greater authority to take such actions as shutting down large events, gaining access to buildings or stockpiling protective gear.

The moves came as the battle to stop the virus from spreading intensified. More schools and universities sent students home, while conferences and other events were canceled. The United Nations announced it would close its New York headquarters to the public and suspend all tours. The Coachella music festival that draws tens of thousands to the California desert near Palm Springs every April was postponed until October. And one of the biggest resort operators in Las Vegas, MGM Resorts International, said it would close buffets at all of its Las Vegas Strip casinos as a precaution.

Asia

Holi festival subdued in India over coronavirus concerns

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hindus threw colored powder and sprayed water in massive celebrations of the festival of Holi in India on Tuesday, but the enthusiasm was subdued compared to previous years because of fears of the new virus.

Brightly colored powder filled the air in most parts of North India. But in the capital, New Delhi, many events were canceled as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country rose to 47.

Holi, which marks the advent of spring, is widely celebrated in India, Nepal and other South Asian countries.

Most years, millions of people from toddlers to the elderly throw powder at each other and play with water balloons and squirt guns.

But this year Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that he would not participate in public Holi celebrations because of the virus outbreak.

"Yes, it's coronavirus that made us cancel our programs," said Anshuman Ghulati, festival director of Holi Moo, one



AP
Women with their faces smeared with colored powder cheer during celebrations marking the Holi festival in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Afghans set to release 1,500 Taliban; US wants less violence

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—After a series of delays, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree early Wednesday promising to release 1,500 Taliban prisoners as a goodwill gesture to get intra-Afghan negotiations started, even though a deal signed by the United States and the Taliban calls for the release of up to 5,000 prisoners ahead of the much sought after negotiations.

There was no official response from the Taliban, but The Associated Press saw a letter that Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the head of the Taliban's Prisoners Commission, sent to the prisoners and their families, as well as Taliban leaders, promising there would be no intra-Afghan talks until all the prisoners are released.

The Pashto-language letter was sent last weekend. It says the Taliban would verify that each prisoner released is among those on the list given to an American delegation.

The decree went on to say the first round of 1,500 prisoners will be selected based on age, health and the length of their sentences already served. The released prisoners, who will be biometrically identified, will also have to give a written guarantee that they will not return to the battlefield.

The remaining 3,500 pris-

oners will be released after intra-Afghan negotiations begin and 500 will be released every two weeks providing the Taliban reduce violence on the battlefield.

However, even if the Taliban agree to start negotiations, Kabul's political turmoil and relentless bickering between Ghani and his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, who has also sworn himself in as Afghanistan's president, have left Kabul struggling to come up with a united negotiating team.

Ghani's decree came as the U.S. State Department issued a statement saying that the level of violence is "unacceptable," and that while the Taliban have stopped attacks against the U.S.-led coalition forces and in Afghan cities, the violence in the countryside remains too high.

The statement also said Afghanistan's "presidential electoral crisis" — an apparent reference to the two inaugurations and political chaos — has delayed the establishment of a national negotiating team and the start of intra-Afghan talks, which were to begin on Tuesday in Oslo, Norway.

Despite the political chaos in Kabul and increased violence on the battlefield, the United States has started withdrawing its troops in keeping with the deal it signed

on Feb. 29 with the Taliban. In the first phase, Washington will reduce its troops contingent to 8,600, down from the current 13,000.

If the Taliban adhere to their commitments to deny terrorists safe havens in Afghanistan, Washington will withdraw the remainder of its troops over 14 months, according to the agreement.

When it was signed, the U.S.-Taliban deal was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at finding peace after 40 years of relentless war while offering the United States an exit after nearly 19 years and its longest war.

President Donald Trump has expressed increasing frustration with the Afghan government and its security forces' inability to police and manage their own affairs. But almost from the beginning the unraveling began as the Taliban returned to the battlefield and Afghanistan's politicians stepped up their feuding as Washington's Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad scrambled to find a way out of the impasse.

In the end, both Ghani and Abdullah declared themselves president. The United States and other international players attended Ghani's ceremony while urging both men to negotiate a single government.

of the biggest Holi events in New Delhi which last year drew some 7,000 people from around the world.

"People are scared this year, we have canceled our event," he said.

Other groups in New Delhi also canceled their plans.

Atul Goyal, president of United Residents Joint Action, said there would be no gala lunches or water dance events.

"Considering the coronavirus outbreak, you are advised to cancel Holi gatherings, in particular playing with water

and touching of nose, eyes and lips and shaking hands," the group said in an advisory.

But many defied the recommendations in other parts of the country.

People danced and smeared each other with colors in the northern state of Uttarakhand. Still, "there has been some effect from the coronavirus on celebrations," said Neeraj Kumar, a resident of the state.

Sellers of colored powder and water guns said their sales had plunged.

"The fear that customers

have over the coronavirus and the large number of people that are getting sick has made them slightly disinterested in celebrating Holi. So our sales have become very less this Holi," vendor Jitender Pandey said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

Japan unveils \$4B package to fight virus

TOKYO (AP)—A task force set up by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday approved a 430 billion yen (\$4.1 billion) package that includes support for small to medium-size businesses hit by the coronavirus outbreak, amid criticisms over his handling of the crisis.

Among other relief, the package also includes subsidies for parents who need to take time off work due to school closures, funding for development of virus vaccines and test kits and for extra production of protective masks, banning of their resale.

Abe kept in place a government request for the public and organizers to cancel, postpone and scale down events for 10 more days to help reduce the risks of the virus spreading further.

The plan also includes sup-

port for hospitals to prepare for a potential surge in the number of patients in coming weeks. A worst-case scenario estimate by the health ministry showed 20,000 people could be hospitalized and 45,000 outpatients might require treatment per day.

As in many other major economies, small and medium-sized businesses provide most jobs and are suffering the greatest impact from a sharp decline in tourism, travel and other spending as Japanese heed calls to stay home to minimize the risk of spreading or catching the virus. Contract workers and others who don't get paid time off also are vulnerable to losing their livelihoods.

The government said it plans to provide 1.6 trillion yen (\$15 billion) in interest-free, no collateral loans to help

such companies manage during the crisis.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

As part of Japan's measures, Abe said Japan will ban entry of foreign visitors from San Marino in northern Italy and some parts of Iran beginning Wednesday, citing a sharp increase of confirmed cases in the areas.

World

Virus locks down Italy amid global push to contain outbreak

ROME (AP)—The boisterous hum of Rome dwindled to a whisper and police patrols kept people apart in cafes as Italy enforced an extraordinary, sweeping lockdown in hopes of not becoming the next epicenter of the spreading coronavirus epidemic now that life in China is edging back to normal.

Infections in Italy topped the 10,000 mark — more than anywhere but China — and the number of deaths from the virus rose Tuesday to 631 from 463 a day earlier, Italian Civil Protection authorities said.

Police across the country patrolled cafes to ensure owners kept customers 1 meter (3 feet) apart during daylight hours and then enforced a strict 6 p.m. closure order.

“It’s bad. People are terrorized,” said Massimo Leonardo, who runs a market stall. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for a few, espe-

cially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illnesses, including pneumonia. More than 119,000 people have been infected worldwide and over 4,200 have died.

By encouraging many of Italy’s 62 million people to stay home and further drying up what was left of the country’s already battered tourism industry, the lockdown could increase the likelihood of a recession, dealing another blow to reeling global markets.

Italy’s economy, the third-largest of the 19 countries that use the euro currency, relies heavily on industries requiring the physical presence and proximity of workers: tourism, manufacturing, and retail.

Italians shouldn’t leave home unless for work, health care or “necessities” such as grocery shopping, the premier’s office said. Early closures of shops, cafes and restaurants amounted to a seismic restriction in a country that

prizes its gastronomy, luxuries and cafe culture.

“I’ll do whatever they tell me to do,” Rome florist Stefano Fulvi said. “If I have to close, I’ll close.”

Italy also found itself increasingly sealed off as other countries sought to keep infections contained.

Malta and Spain announced a ban on air traffic from Italy. British Airways and Air Canada suspended all Italy flights. Austria barred travelers from crossing the border

without a medical certificate. Slovenia closed its border with Italy, and Albania banned Italy air and ferry traffic. Britain, Ireland, Hong Kong and Germany strengthened travel advisories and urged their citizens to leave. Even the Vatican erected a new barricade at the edge of St. Peter’s Square.

“Get out of northern Italy if you’re there,” said Erik Broegger Rasmussen, head of consular services for Denmark’s foreign ministry.

But in China, the diminish-

ing threat prompted President Xi Jinping to visit the central city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, on Tuesday and declare: “We will certainly defeat this epidemic.”

It was the latest sign that China is edging back toward normal after weeks of extreme quarantine measures. A day after Xi’s visit to Wuhan, China reported just 24 new infections Wednesday, down from thousands each day last month.

“Things are slowly returning to normal,” said Yang Tianxiao,

a finance worker in Beijing, where the city government is gradually easing restrictions.

In a reversal of positions, China is seeing new cases brought in from overseas. In Beijing, the capital, all the new cases of COVID-19 reported on Wednesday came from outside the country, five from Italy and one from the United States.

Improving reports continued to come from South Korea, too, with 242 new cases reported Wednesday, a considerable drop from its highs.

Venezuelan riot police drive off protesters with tear gas

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Security forces fired tear gas Tuesday to repel an anti-government march led by Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who is struggling to reignite street protests to capitalize on mounting international pressure on embattled socialist President Nicolás Maduro.

Thousands of demonstrators assembled in a leafy, anti-government neighborhood of Caracas with the goal of taking back the National Assembly, the country’s only opposition-dominated body whose chamber was seized over two months ago by a splinter faction of the opposition that claimed leadership of the legislature with the support of the ruling socialist party.

Many of the protesters were draped in the red, blue and yellow colors of Venezuela’s flag and banged on pots to draw attention to the humanitarian crisis in the oil-rich nation. Smaller protests took place in several cities across Venezuela.

But riot police wielding heavy shields and backed by armored vehicles blocked their progress downtown, where masses of red-shirted state workers and Maduro supporters held their own rally to show support for the revolution begun by the late President Hugo Chavez.

“They try to intimidate us with weapons of war,” Guaidó said from a megaphone.

“We’ll keep going until we reach our goal.”

Clashes broke out as protesters flung rocks and sticks at police, who responded with volleys of tear gas that scattered the marchers. Guaidó then led a smaller group that reconvened in a safer part of town for an impromptu, outdoor session of the National Assembly.

Addressing lawmakers, Guaidó repeated his refrain that the only solution to an economic and social crisis marked by hyperinflation and crumbling public services is free presidential elections.

But even some of his supporters are beginning to second guess that strategy. Henry Ramos, a lawmaker who heads the Democratic Action party, said that with a new presidential vote out of reach for now, it is time to start preparing for congressional elections that are scheduled for this year.

“What are we going to do? Stay at home and let the government grab the National Assembly?” Ramos said in a rare public break with Guaidó, who has ruled out participating in any legislative elections until the Maduro-stacked electoral council is overhauled.

Nearly 60 nations, led by the United States, recognize Guaidó, head of the congress, as Venezuela’s legitimate leader because they view Maduro’s 2018 re-election as fraudulent.



A worker sprays disinfectant as sanitization operations against Coronavirus are carried out in the museum hosted by the Maschio Angioino medieval castle, in Naples, Italy, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin backs term limit freeze allowing him to stay in office

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed his tightly guarded political plans Tuesday and supported a constitutional amendment that would allow him to seek reelection in 2024 by restarting the term count. The constitutional change would pave the way for the 67-year-old Putin to stay in office until 2036, if he desires. A lawmaker who is revered in Russia as the first woman to fly in space proposed either scrapping Russia’s two-term limit for presidents or stopping the clock so the law wouldn’t apply to Putin’s time in office. The Russian leader and the lower house of parliament quickly endorsed the proposal put forward by 83-year-old former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova. Kremlin

critics denounced the move as cynical manipulation and called for protests.

Israeli court rejects Netanyahu request to delay trial

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli court on Tuesday rejected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s request to delay the start of his corruption trial, clearing the way for proceedings to begin as planned next week. Netanyahu’s lawyers had appealed for a delay, saying they needed more time to review evidence. State prosecutors responded that they oppose any delays and the court accepted their position. In overruling the request the presiding judge wrote that the first session on March 17 was a procedural reading of the charges only and the defendant’s response was not needed,

therefore there was no justification for a delay. Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in connection to a series of scandals that include accepting expensive gifts from wealthy friends and offering to exchange favors with powerful media moguls. The long-ruling Israeli leader denies any wrongdoing and says he is the victim of a media-orchestrated witch hunt.

Egyptian lawyer sentenced to 1 year in prison for fake news

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court Tuesday sentenced a prominent human rights lawyer and former lawmaker to a year in prison for his conviction on charges that rights advocates have decried as baseless and politically motivated. The judge in Cairo’s misdemeanors court found Zyad el-

Elaimy guilty of “deliberately spreading fake news.” He was also fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds (around \$1,270). El-Elaimy has appealed the ruling and will remain in detention until a hearing on April 7. He also faces charges in a separate case of conspiring with an outlawed group to commit crimes, a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, which President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi has banned as a terrorist organization. Police arrested el-Elaimy over those accusations last summer after he met with political parties and opposition lawmakers to hash out how to run in the 2020 parliamentary elections. A vocal critic of el-Sissi’s government, el-Elaimy is a leading activist in the secular Egyptian Social Democratic Party. He served as a member of parliament after the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat President Hosni Mubarak.

Environment

WASHINGTON—A trillion trees is a lot, but would be woefully inadequate to address the global warming crisis, according to Democrats and climate scientists who said Republican backers of a tree-planting plan are using it to distract attention from the need to phase out fossil fuel use.

The tree-planting bill — which calls for the U.S. to support a global effort to plant 1 trillion trees — got a hearing at the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, where sponsor Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., said it offers the most “pragmatic, proactive and logical” approach to reducing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere.

The legislation mirrors President Donald Trump’s decision to join a global initiative driven by the United Nations.

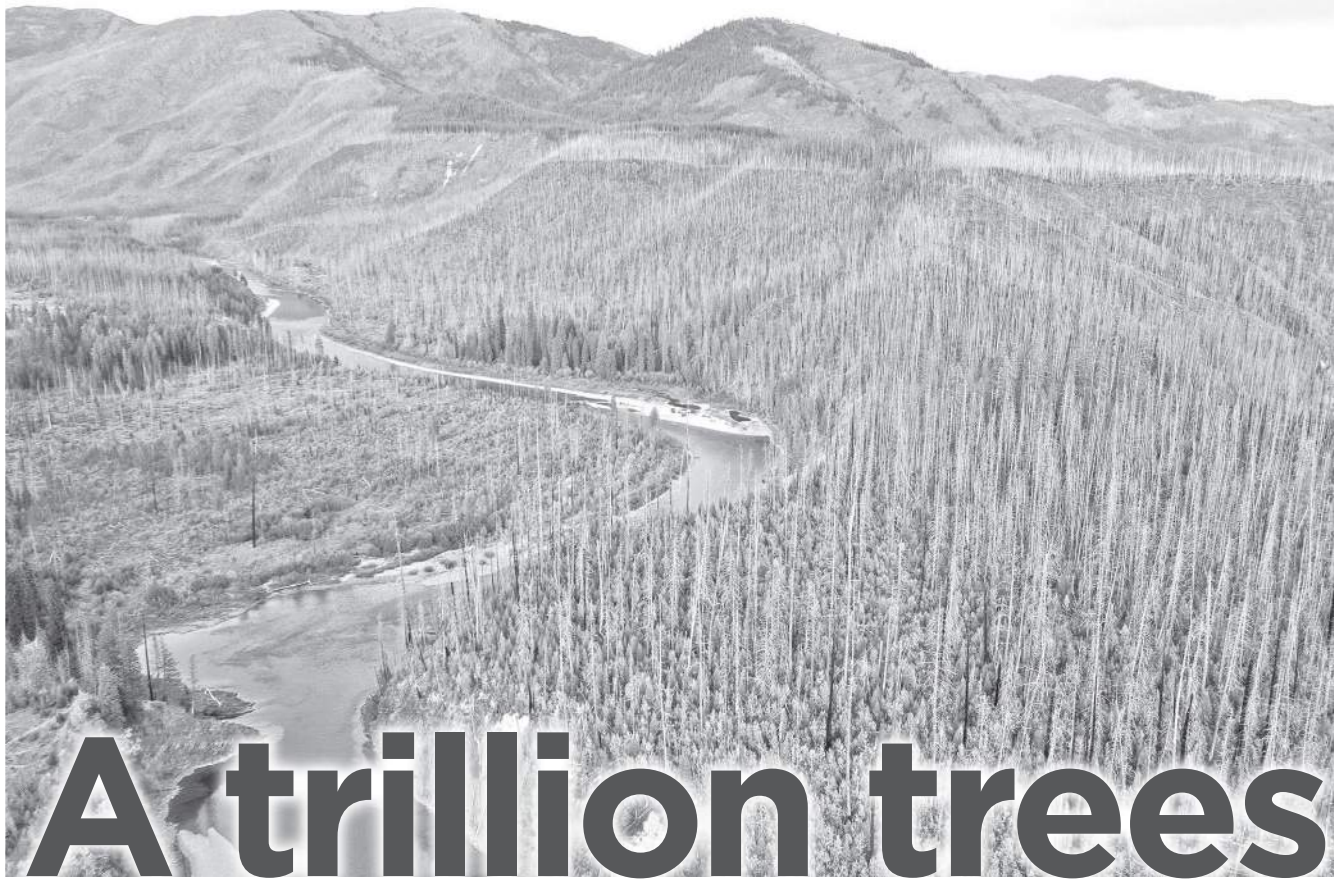
“There’s nothing that can store carbon better and longer than wood,” Westerman said.

But panel Democrats and some witnesses said that while they support growing more trees, they were concerned that the legislation would encourage logging under the guise of forest management in areas such as the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, and that it dodges more effective solutions.

On Tuesday, more than 95 environmental organizations wrote a letter to the committee urging it to reject the bill, which they consider a “gift” to the logging industry.

At the Wednesday hearing, Carla Staver, an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale, said planting new trees alone isn’t a viable solution and would only remove a small amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

“Our primary focus must be reducing our dependence on fossil fuels,” Staver said. “The



TNS
New pine trees grow up from the forest floor among the gray skeletons of trees killed by the 2003 Robert Complex fire along the North Fork of the Flathead River on the western boundary of Glacier National Park on September 16, 2019, near West Glacier, Montana. As climate change makes summers hotter and drier in the Northern Rockies, the annual forest fire season has nearly tripled since the mid-1970s, from 49 to 135 days.

A trillion trees not enough to fix climate crisis, critics say

By **ELVINA NAWAGUNA**
CO-ROLL CALL

illusion that tree-planting is a silver-bullet solution to the climate crisis is a distraction from real action.” Scientists continue to warn that countries need to drastically and quickly cut their greenhouse gas emissions if they are to stave off the worst impacts of a hotter Earth.

Republicans have long rejected that scientific consensus. Even as polling shows greater demand for climate action among young Republican voters and others, GOP lawmakers and the Trump administration continue to oppose government interventions to require or encourage the reduction and elimination of carbon emissions, the primary

culprit in global warming.

The GOP has offered the tree-planting bill as an alternative to federal regulations.

“I respectfully ask anyone to offer a better solution,” said Westerman, who received his master’s degree in forestry from Yale.

An exclusive focus on trees is narrow, Staver said; they take too long to grow and the major benefits of tree-planting will only accrue after 2030, a pace she said would be too slow.

“Isn’t it worth starting now?” Westerman asked in response.

In the letter to House Natural Resources Committee, the group of environmental

organizations took issue with several aspects of the bill, including incentives for more logging and its consideration of biomass energy from burning wood as carbon neutral.

“This deceptive bill is the worst kind of greenwashing and a complete distraction from urgently needed reductions in fossil fuel pollution,” said Randi Spivak, public lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, which also signed the letter.

“If Westerman were truly serious about addressing the climate crisis, he’d work on a bill to slash fossil fuel emissions by half over the next 10 years and protect our forests.”

At least one Republican pushed back on the tree bill, saying there’s not enough federal land for new trees and that the forests in his state are overcrowded and have become bigger carbon dioxide emitters when they catch fire.

“It’s not clear to me where we’re going to fit more trees on the federal lands,” Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., said. “The rest of the federal lands are mainly desert, can’t support trees.”

Chairman Raul M. Grijalva, D-Ariz., said he appreciates the tree-planting bill and welcomes Republicans’ “new chapter” focusing on climate solutions rather than “climate

denial,” but like others, said more needs to be done.

“We all agree that nature-based solutions are critical to combat climate change, but we must not lose focus on what the science tells us we must do to stabilize (global) temperatures and avoid catastrophic impacts,” Grijalva said.

“This will require hundreds of steps across all sectors of the economy, coordination across the entire federal government and legislation from almost every congressional committee,” he said.

Another bill examined at the hearing, offered by Grijalva, would aim to put the country on the path to net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, partly by halting new fossil fuel leasing and production on public lands for a year while requiring agencies to meet emission-reduction targets.

His bill also would encourage renewable fuel production on public lands.

“All the trees won’t stand a fighting chance if we don’t cut our fossil fuel emissions,” Grijalva said.

Fellow Arizona lawmaker Paul Gosar, a Republican, said that banning exploration on public lands wouldn’t reduce carbon emissions, but instead allow U.S. competitors such as Russia and Saudi Arabia to take a greater market share of fossil fuel production.

Your favorite sandy beach may not survive climate change

By **ROB VERDONCK**
BLOOMBERG NEWS

SYDNEY—The world may lose almost half of its sandy beaches by the end of the century if climate change isn’t kept in check.

That’s assuming a 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit increase in temperatures from pre-industrial levels by 2100 that would raise sea levels, leading to erosion and increased coastal flooding, the University of New South Wales said Wednesday, citing a study in Nature Climate Change. If

temperature increases were limited to about half that figure, beach erosion would fall about a third from the worst-case scenario.

Sandy beaches comprise about a third of the world’s coastline, which would be eroded by 40 to 250 yards under the worst-case scenario, assuming there were no physical limits such as sea walls. The effect would be more noticeable in the latter decades of this century, and would continue well into the next.

The study used several new databases, including recent

shoreline movement that may already be affected by increases in sea levels and may lead to an overestimate, according to John Church, Chair Professor at the UNSW’s Climate Research Centre.

“Regardless of the exact numbers reported in this study, it’s clear we will have to adapt to the beach erosion that we can no longer prevent, if we are to continue enjoying our beaches,” he said. “And if we are to continue to enjoy our sandy beaches into the future, we cannot allow ongoing and increasing greenhouse gas emissions.”



TNS
According to a study in Nature Climate Change, almost half of the world’s sandy beaches might be lost to sea level rise, flooding and erosion by the end of the century.

Life & Style

Coachella festival postponed as concerts grapple with virus

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The uber-popular Coachella music festival has been postponed from its usual two-weekend-run in April to October due to concerns about the growing coronavirus.

The festival's producer Goldenvoice made the announcement Tuesday, also confirming that Stagecoach, a country music festival, will also be postponed. Coachella, held in Southern California, will now take place on Oct. 9-11 and Oct. 16-18, while Stagecoach will take place Oct. 23-25.

"At the direction of the County of Riverside and lo-

cal health authorities, we must sadly confirm the rescheduling of Coachella and Stagecoach due to COVID-19 concerns. While this decision comes at a time of universal uncertainty, we take the safety and health of our guests, staff and community very seriously. We urge everyone to follow the guidelines and protocols put forth by public health officials," Goldenvoice said in a statement.

The company said all passes for original dates will be honored for the rescheduled shows, and customers will be notified by Friday on how to obtain a refund if they cannot attend.

Rage Against the Machine, Travis Scott and Frank Ocean were originally announced

as headliners of Coachella; Goldenvoice didn't say if the performance lineup would change or stay intact. Others announced to perform include Calvin Harris, Lana Del Rey, Thom Yorke, 21 Savage, Disclosure, Summer Walker, Lil Uzi Vert and FKA twigs.

Riverside County, which has six coronavirus cases, declared a public health emergency on Sunday.

"No doubt it will impact many people, but my top priority is to protect the health of the entire community," said Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms,



AP
This April 13, 2012 file photo shows festivalgoers running toward the main stage at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

'Dr. Phil' talk show will tape without audiences

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "Dr. Phil" daytime talk show will tape without a studio audience for roughly two weeks as a precaution against the new coronavirus.



Dr. Phil

The show typically tapes with an audience of about 300 people at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles. The show expects to resume audience taping the week of March 23, according to statement announcing the decision Tuesday.

The move will affect a dozen episodes. The announcement came a day after the popular game shows "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel

of Fortune" said they would record upcoming shows without audiences.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

LA Opera finds harassment reports against Domingo 'credible'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An investigation commissioned by the Los Angeles Opera into sexual harassment allegations against

Investigators say 10 women accused the star of engaging in inappropriate conduct between 1986 and 2019. Investigators deemed the allegations credible, according to a summary released Tuesday by LA Opera.

The findings did not detail any of the allegations, but said the "level of discomfort reported by the women varied, ranging from some women stating they were not uncom-

fortable to others who described significant trauma."

The six-month investigation, conducted by outside lawyers, also found "no evidence that LA Opera ever ignored, failed to address, or covered up sexual harassment complaints," the summary said.

The accusations echo those of a separate independent investigation released two weeks ago by the American Guild of Musical Artists, the U.S. union that represents op-



Domingo

era performers.

Both investigations were launched after the publication of Associated Press stories last year in which multiple women accused Domingo of sexual harassment and abusing his pow-

er. Dozens of people told the AP that his behavior was an open secret in the opera world, where men in positions of authority have long behaved with impunity.

Domingo, now 79, has been regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time and a

key power broker in the industry. He served as general director at Washington Opera from 2003-2011 and helped found LA Opera in the 1980s before becoming an artistic adviser, then artistic director and finally general director from 2003 until his tenure was cut short by the allegations last year.

The LA Opera investigation, conducted by the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, said Domingo was one of 44 people interviewed and that the singer had "denied all allegations of unwanted contact and maintained that all his interactions were consensual."

Attending ex's wedding enrages couple's nephew

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a 45-year-old nephew who married for the first time two years ago. Before that, he was engaged to a woman I'll call Anita for two years. We assumed the reason for their breakup was she wanted children, and he did not. Last year, we attended Anita's wedding, as we are still friendly with her.

Our nephew was, and still is, furious with us for going. He claims "only 5% of people attend one's ex's wedding." He says we should have been loyal to him and abstained because Anita was a "vicious, lying, rumormonger."

He still emails and calls us, ranting and raving to the point that we might lose the relationship with him forever. We feel we did nothing wrong and were not obligated to get his permission to attend that wedding. What do you think?

BIG SIN IN OREGON

DEAR "BIG SIN": I think you were right to attend Anita's wedding, in light of the fact that you are still friendly. You didn't need your nephew's permission. I seriously doubt his breakup with Anita had anything to do with whether she and your nephew disagreed about having children. More likely it had everything to do with the fact that your nephew is stubborn and behaves irrationally.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has no friends of her own and no hobbies. She's miserable most of the time, and happiness with

her seems fleeting. I think she needs to see a counselor, but she refuses. In couples counseling, when the counselor pushed her on her issues, she quit.

I realize now that she is able to hide these issues from everyday acquaintances. But we have a 1-year-old daughter, and I'm certain that as she gets older, she'll see these issues as well. What do I do?

LOOKING FORWARD IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOOKING: Whether your wife has postpartum depression or longstanding mental health issues I can't guess, but something is not right with her. I think it could benefit you greatly if YOU go back to that counselor, if only to ask for advice on how to handle this situation and provide as healthy an environment for your daughter to grow up in as possible.

DEAR ABBY: I am having issues with one of my good friends. When we hang out one-on-one, she's great. We laugh at just about everything and agree on a lot of different topics. However, when we hang out with other people, it's a different story. It seems as though all attention needs to be on her. It's not something I'm jealous of. It's more an uncomfortable feeling for everyone else. She's almost like a 4-year-old who needs constant attention and all eyes on her.

I enjoy hanging out with her when it's just us because I don't see this side of her, but in groups or even with one other person,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



it's like it's her world and we are just living in it. We are planning a trip soon, and I feel hesitant about being with her for long periods of time.

WEARING THIN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WEARING THIN: I'm puzzled as to why, knowing your friend behaves the way she does, you would be planning a trip with her. Unless it's a road trip—just the two of you—I think it could end the friendship. Considering who she is, the less time you spend in groups larger than two, the better.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



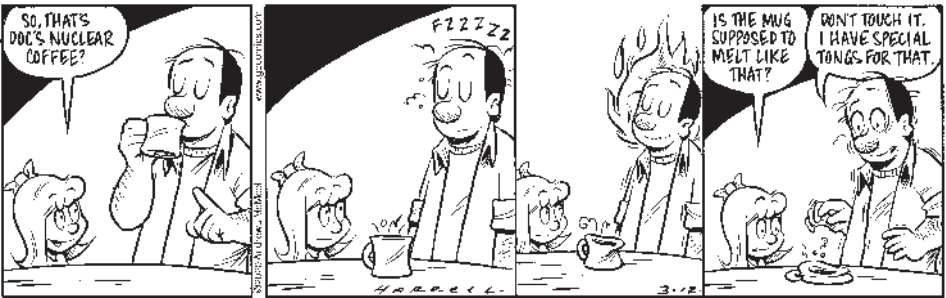
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



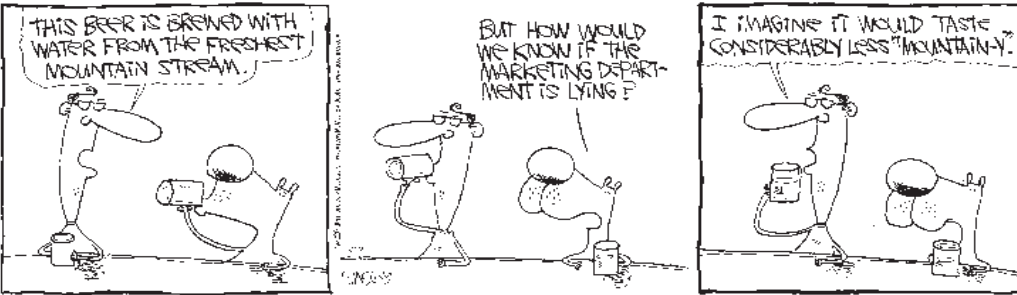
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Military conflicts

5 Game official

8 Conceal

12 "Be that — may ..."

13 Yale grad

14 Oklahoma city

15 Evening, in an ad

16 Journal

17 Ladder part

18 Garden pavilion

20 Moocher

22 Medico

23 Cover

24 Fall bloomers

27 Pub-going comic strip character

32 Sugary suffix

33 Dead heat

34 Darjeeling, e.g.

35 Frame for a mattress

DOWN

1 Dress designer

2 India's continent

3 Cracker name

4 Spirited horses

5 Move to a new city, say

6 "Evil Woman"

7 Pear-shaped fruits

8 Brave

9 Flood

10 Little dent

11 Rim

19 Little —

21 Layer group

24 Unruly

25 Employ

26 Administer drugs to

28 Long of "Soul Food"

29 Name in some one's honor

30 Capita lead-in

31 Actress

36 Know-how

37 Heavy weight

38 Ohio city

41 You and I

42 Weaponry

43 Lopsided win

44 Author Hunter

46 Wax-coated cheese

47 Wait

48 Jazz great

51 — jiffy

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaimie Alexander, 36; Aaron Eckhart, 52; Courtney B. Vance, 60; Liza Minnelli, 74.

Happy Birthday: Inch your way forward. Hide your intentions, plans and feelings until you are sure you have everything in place. Your secretive nature will be part of what intrigues the people around you. Play to win, to please and to make a splash that will keep you ahead of any competition. A revelation will lead to a positive lifestyle change. Your numbers are 7, 13, 18, 24, 31, 33, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A positive attitude will help you maintain good relationships. Anger will not solve problems, but thinking matters through and coming up with a workable solution will pay off. Don't overextend yourself to help someone. Offer advice, not cash. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't sit back; take the initiative, and make things happen. Charm will help you get others to do something for you, making it easier to reach your target. A secure connection with someone will help you close a deal. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There will be too many options or people involved to get things done. Take a wait-and-see approach, and don't rule out moving forward on your own. Someone will shed unexpected light on a situation you face. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show off, and you'll draw attention. Wheel and deal to position yourself for success. Love is on the rise, so put time aside for a little fun and

games. Travel plans can include both work and pleasure. It's your turn to shine. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be inclined to take on something that someone makes look easy when it's not. Do your research, or you will end up falling short and getting blamed for the outcome. Don't leave your responsibilities in someone's hands. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can't go wrong. Just follow the rules and a strategy, and forge ahead. An opportunity will be made available that will give you a chance to learn something. Love is on the rise, and a partnership looks inviting. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A project will become your prime concern. A change of plans will require you to pick up information that will help you get things done on time. An unusual opportunity is likely to bring you rewards beyond your wildest dreams. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Finalize deals, settlements or investments. Don't hesitate when there is so much at risk. Take action, and don't let an emotional matter slow you down. Love is on the rise. A favorable change to your current connection looks promising. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you rely on will not come through for you. A partnership will be on shaky ground if you don't do something to make amends. You can make money, but don't do so at someone's expense. Fair play is required. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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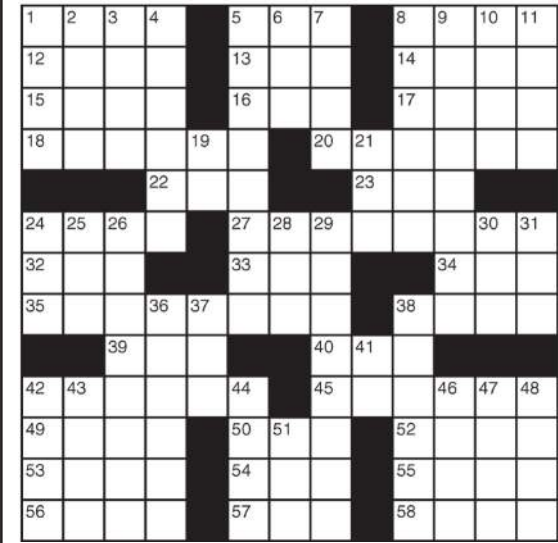
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a different approach to the way you do things, and you will surprise everyone with your adaptability and uniqueness. A career or personal move will give you greater financial freedom. Expand your interests, knowledge and friendships. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give something away that you worked so hard to keep. Letting your ego get in the way will end in regret. Do your best not to let others cost you financially, emotionally or legally. A fair alternative is encouraged. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Express your wishes, and push your plans forward with confidence. A pertinent change to the way you live will result in greater comfort. Love is in the stars. Whether or not you are in a relationship, a favorable turn will unfold. *****

Birthday Baby: You are mysterious, intense and meticulous. You are disciplined and original.

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE MECHANICS OF WATCHES Solution: 6 letters

T G D I G I T A L A R M R B L S N N Y A D G R O T O R E A R U I A M A N C P I N N T T R A J R B T I L I M T O B S A O E D P E K S N E H I E Y I E M Y A S C Q S I U H S R A R P E A U A O C U C S T C R A W E T L T N I A S A H E E T E E R E S O W N M F N R A R H A B W R S M O V E M E N T N R C L M S I A R P R P E N O Z G E T P U D T C H A N D S T Y L E T A I N I S W S R A L O S E G N A R I C L Y R E T T A B G O L D W W S E S L U P S T O P W A T C H

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Adjust, Alarm, Automatic, Band, Barometers, Battery, Best, Cameras, Change, Coin, Crown, Crystal, Date, Day, Dial, Digital, Display, Fashion, Gold, Hands, Latch, Minute, Month, Movement, Need, Numbers, Pawls, Pins, Pulses, Quartz, Range, Ratchet, Repeater, Rotor, Solar, Spring, Stopwatch, Strap, Style, Tacking, Time, Water Resistant, Wear, Wind, Wrist, Year, Zone

Yesterdays Answer: Hair

The NEW Treasury 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Davis misses 3 at buzzer, Nets hold off Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—In his second game as Brooklyn's interim coach, Jacque Vaughn watched his Nets fight and scrap for 47 1/2 minutes to carve out a two-point lead over the powerhouse Lakers.

Then Vaughn had to watch from the sideline while Anthony Davis launched a last-second 3-pointer that would have undone it all.

"It's like the joy and pain of basketball," Vaughn said. "I had the perfect sight line. I see it leave, just watching the flight of it. Looked to see if his feet were behind the line, so I said, 'This is a 3-ball. We're either losing this thing, or we're going to win this thing.'"

Davis missed. The Nets' coaching change remains a hit.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 23 points and hit the tiebreaking jumper with 28.3 seconds to play, and Brooklyn beat the Lakers 104-102 Tuesday night for its second straight win since Vaughn surprisingly replaced Kenny Atkinson last week.

Caris LeVert added 22 points as Brooklyn opened its four-game California road trip by beating the Western Conference's top team.

Davis hit four 3-pointers, but that wide-open 3 at the buzzer would have won it for the Lakers, whose four-game winning streak ended. After back-to-back victories over NBA-leading Milwaukee and the powerhouse Clippers last weekend, the Lakers lost at home for the first time since Feb. 6.

LeBron James had 29 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists for the Lakers, and he flawlessly set up Davis' final shot by driving the lane and kicking out to his fellow All-Star.

"A great look, a great opportunity to win the game," James said. "We just missed it. That's what the game is about."

Brooklyn had a 97-88 lead with six minutes to play, but the Lakers ratcheted up their defense and cut it to 100-99 on James' driving layup with 1:47 left.

Davis scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half, and he hit a tying 3-pointer with 42.6 seconds left on a setup from James.

Dinwiddie, a Los Angeles native and lifelong Lakers fans who starred at Taft High School in the San Fernando Valley, calmly drilled his mid-range jumper for the Nets' first field goal in three minutes.

"It feels good because it's a high-quality opponent on the road for a team that is doing its best right now to continue to find itself," Dinwiddie said. "Obviously, we've



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, strips the ball from Brooklyn Nets' Joe Harris during the first half of an NBA game Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in Los Angeles.

The game, featuring two teams holding down the eighth and final spot in their respective conferences, was competitive until the final minute. A 3-point attempt by Memphis guard Tyus Jones bounced off the rim in the final seconds, preserving the Magic's third straight victory.

Wizards 122, Knicks 115

In Washington, Bradley Beal got back to his high-scoring ways with 40 points, lifting the Wizards past New York.

Beal overcame a slow start and surpassed the 25-point plateau for the 22nd time in 23 games. His string of 21 such games was snapped Sunday when he scored 23 in a loss to Miami.

The Wizards' win meant the Heat will have to wait at least one more day to clinch an Eastern Conference play-off spot.

Bulls 108, Cavaliers 103

In Chicago, Coby White scored 20 points to help offset a career-high nine turnovers in his first NBA start, and the Bulls beat Cleveland.

Wendell Carter Jr. added 17 points. Lauri Markkanen, Denzel Valentine and Otto Porter Jr. each scored 15. Shaquille Harrison grabbed 10 rebounds. And the Bulls held off the Eastern Conference's last-place team to win for just the third time in 16 games.

gone through injuries and the coaching change as well. There's been a ton of up and down. And they're one of the top, what, three teams in the league, right? The championship contenders, Lakers, Clippers and Bucks. So it's big for a team that learning and going to try to be a champion to add this win."

James drove the lane for a layup that somehow rimmed out with 9 seconds to play, but the Lakers got the ball back after the scramble. James again drove and dished to Davis—but the All-Star couldn't connect to secure the Lakers' 50th win of the season and a triple-double for James.

Celtics 114, Pacers 111

In Boston, Marcus Smart's leaning bank shot in the final minute gave the Celtics' the lead after the team blew a 19-point advantage, and Boston held on against Indiana Pacers to clinch a playoff spot for a sixth consecutive year.

Jayson Tatum scored 30 points for Boston while Gordon Hayward added 27 points, 10 boards and five assists in his home state.

Smart put the Celtics ahead for good at 111-109 with 49.7 seconds left by scoring in the lane over Domantas Sabonis, who led Indiana with 28 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Smart made two free throws with seven seconds to go for a three-point edge, and Justin Holiday missed badly on a contested 3-pointer as time expired.

Rockets 117, Timberwolves 111

In Houston, James Harden scored 37 points and the Rockets beat Minnesota, snapping a four-game skid.

The Rockets' losing streak, which matched a season high, came after they won six in a row and dropped them to sixth in the Western Conference with the playoffs fast approaching.

Russell Westbrook scored 27 points for Houston.

Spurs 119, Mavericks 109

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points in his re-

turn from injury and the Spurs withstood Luka Doncic's 38 points to beat Dallas and keep their playoff hopes afloat.

San Antonio had seven players in double figures in snapping a two-game skid. Rudy Gay scored 17 points, Trey Lyles had 14 points and 11 rebounds and DeMar DeRozan added 13 points and 12 assists.

Doncic added seven rebounds and seven assists in 36 minutes. Tim Hardaway Jr. added 20 points.

Dallas remains seventh in the West, 6 1/2 games ahead of Memphis.

The Spurs moved four

games behind the Grizzlies for the eighth seed.

Magic 120, Grizzlies 115

In Memphis Terrence Ross scored 24 points, fueling a rally with 18 in the fourth quarter, and Orlando beat the Grizzlies.

Michael Carter-Williams added 20 points and Nikola Vucevic finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Magic.

Jonas Valanciunas led Memphis with 27 points and 16 rebounds, while Dillon Brooks and rookie Ja Morant finished with 21 points each.

NFL teams propose 7 rules changes, 'sky judge'



NEW YORK (AP)—Two NFL teams have suggested changes to game officiating, including a "sky judge" utilized by colleges, among seven rules proposals that will be presented to team owners later this month.

Also proposed is revamping overtime to minimize the coin toss impact and returning OT to its original 15-minute length, and providing alternatives to the onside kick—which is considered a dangerous play—for a scoring team to attempt to keep the ball.

The Ravens and Chargers are seeking what they call a booth umpire as an eighth game official, as well as adding a senior technology ad-

viser to the referee to assist the officiating

Citing competitive equity, pace of play, player health and safety, Baltimore and Los Angeles proposed the adviser "being positioned somewhere other than the playing field, with full communication to on-field officials and access to a television monitor that displays all broadcast angles provided through the NFL's network independence system."

The technology adviser would be in the replay booth, able to access video and have the ability to hear and communicate with game officials. He will have had on-field experience as a game official and will advise the officiating crew on game administration; ball possession; touching of a loose ball, the out-of-

bounds line, goal line, or end line; location of the football relative to the out-of-bounds line, line of scrimmage, first-down spot or goal line; down by contact; face mask and unnecessary roughness against a defenseless player; number of players on the field at the snap; any other information requested by the referee.

Philadelphia made four suggestions, including the overtime changes of going from 10 minutes back to 15. Also, at the end of regulation, whichever team has scored more touchdowns will have the same options as a team that wins the pregame coin toss. If the teams have scored an equal number of touchdowns, the usual coin toss would occur for OT.

As for the onside kick re-

placement, the Eagles would like for a team to maintain possession after a score by substituting one offensive play on fourth-and-15 at its 25-yard line. Converting the play means keeping possession. But the true onside kick still could be attempted instead.

The Eagles believe such an option would provide excitement and closer competition late in games.

Other proposals include modifying the blindside block rules; making permanent the use of replay to include scoring plays and turnovers negated by a foul, and any extra point attempts; and when the defense declines a penalty it can elect to have the game clock start when the referee signals the ball is ready for play.

COVID-19 impact on US sports grows

NEW YORK (AP)—The novel coronavirus outbreak, which has already reshaped the professional sports landscape in Europe, prompted new restrictions to restrict fan access in the U.S. on Tuesday, with major decisions looming about baseball's opening day and college basketball's NCAA Tournament.

College games will be played without fans in Ohio and California, and given restrictions on large gatherings there and elsewhere, more disruptions to the sports calendar appear inevitable. The NCAA said it would "make decisions in the coming days" about its men's and women's basketball tournaments after two conferences banned fans from their championships and another canceled its tournament altogether.

The baseball season begins in just over two weeks and includes games in Seattle, which so far has been hit harder by the virus than any U.S. city. The Mariners are set to host the Texas Rangers on March 26 in the first of seven consecutive home games to start the season.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee plans to ban gatherings and events of more than 250 people in virtually the entire Seattle area, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday night. The person was not authorized to disclose the decision and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Inslee scheduled a news conference for late Wednesday morning. The Mariners and Major League Baseball had no immediate comment, but the decision would seemingly force MLB to move the games or bar fans from the Mariners' stadium.

Of the 29 known deaths in



the U.S., 24 have been in the Seattle area, with 19 tied to a single nursing home.

If MLB can't play in front of fans at a team's home ballpark, the sport's first preference likely would be to switch games to the visiting team's stadium if possible, a person familiar with the deliberations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because no decisions have been made.

Rangers catcher Robinson Chirinos said Tuesday he is concerned about traveling to Seattle.

"I know the season starts

in Seattle, and we know how Seattle is right now," Chirinos said. "That's 2½ weeks from now, so I think we're going to hear some news when we're getting close to opening day."

None of North America's major sports leagues has postponed games or barred fans in a bid to keep them safe, but there was a flurry of activity as college conferences and schools began making those moves. The Ivy League became the first Division I conference to cancel its basketball tournaments.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom questioned why leagues weren't moving more

aggressively.

"I find it quite curious that the four major organizations—NHL, MLS, MLB and NBA — put out guidelines to protect their athletes but not their fans," said Newsom, a Democrat, referring to the leagues' new restrictions on locker room access.

Discussions about next steps have been ongoing for weeks as postponements and fan restrictions have become common elsewhere. Early Wednesday, London-based football club Arsenal announced that its players would be self-isolating because of possible exposure to the virus,

forcing the postponement of its Premier League game at Manchester City. It was the first Premier League game called off because of the virus and the first possible exposure involving players in a major sports league.

Scores of top-tier soccer games in Spain, France and Portugal, as well as some in Germany and a European Championship qualifying match in Slovakia, will be played in empty stadiums in coming days.

The Spanish league said matches in its first and second divisions will be played without fans for at least two weeks. The league said it was "prioritizing the health of fans, players, club employees, journalists, etc., due to the COVID-19 health crisis."

The French league said soccer matches in its top two divisions will be played without fans until April 15 and Portugal announced similar measures. Italy earlier this week said all sports events, including Serie A soccer games and preparatory events for the Tokyo Olympics, were suspended until April 3. The Italian ski team decided not to send competitors to Slovenia for the last World Cup races of the season.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause

more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks. Those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Sports and government officials in nearly every corner of the globe have scrambled to address concerns fans could be at risk and to potentially stop the spread of the virus. The fear has spread from Asia—particularly about the Summer Olympics in Tokyo—to Europe and now to North America:

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine recommended that fans be kept away from all indoor sporting events. The state is home to the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets, among others; the Blue Jackets said they did not plan to keep fans away from games this week. The state is also hosting a number of high school and collegiate tournaments this month and the first games of the NCAA men's tournament—the First Four—are scheduled for next week in Dayton. First-round games are also set to be played in Cleveland on March 20 and 22.

The NCAA released a statement three hours after the DeWine's announcement saying it "continues to assess how COVID-19 impacts the conduct of our tournaments and events."

"We are consulting with public health officials and our COVID-19 advisory panel, who are leading experts in epidemiology and public health, and will make decisions in the coming days," the NCAA said.

The Mid-American Conference announced its men's and women's tournaments to be played in Cleveland this week would be closed to the general public.

The Big West announced a similar move with its men's and women's tournaments, which will be played this week at Honda Center in Anaheim, California.

Also in Southern California, USC and UCLA said all of its home athletic events will be held without fans at least until April 10, or until further notice. That would include first- and second-round NCAA women's tournament games likely to be hosted by UCLA.

Virus already causing Olympic chaos at qualifying events

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AP)—For many athletes and teams who have yet to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, the global virus outbreak is spoiling plans and ruining hopes.

Qualifying events are being canceled or postponed almost daily, and time is running out for athletes to prove they meet the standard.

Rowing was the latest sport to find itself in flux on Tuesday when it canceled two World Cups, the European Olympic and Paralympic qualifying regatta, and the final Paralympic qualifier. All were to be held in Italy from April 10 to May 10. World Rowing said it wants to relocate the qualifiers and was talking with other countries.

It hoped to offer good news next week.

For now, the Asia and Oceania qualifying regatta, and the final qualifying regatta are still going ahead on from May 17-19 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

On Monday, the International Judo Federation canceled all Olympic qualifiers through April 30, including a Grand Slam and two Grand Prix. Another Grand Prix last weekend, in Morocco, was canceled earlier. Judo qualifying ends on May 25.

"It is of paramount importance to keep the judo family safe in these difficult times, and also to ensure fair chances for all athletes engaged in

the Olympic qualification," the IJF said.

Other sports as diverse as weightlifting, swimming and badminton have also been postponed in-
definitely or canceled outright.

The African weightlifting championships in Mauritius next month were postponed on Tuesday. The Asian champs set a week later in Uzbekistan were canceled last week.

Because of the virus, the international governing body is allowing lifters yet to qualify, to register for major qualifying competitions out of their region, such as the European, Pan American or even the Oceania champs.



All set for Saipan Marathon; over 700 registered

Over 700 runners from 15 countries and territories have signed up for this Saturday's Saipan Marathon.

The 736 registrants include 358 from The Marianas, 122 from Korea, 125 from Japan, 66 from the United States., 42 from the Philippines, six from Guam, four from Malaysia, three from China, two each from Canada, Brazil, and Thailand, and one apiece from the Federated State of Micronesia, Russia, Taiwan, and Germany.

Saipan Marathon 2020 is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority aimed at drawing visitors and media attention to the destination. This year's event adds a 5K course to its 10K, half marathon, and full marathon repertoire.

"We are ready for a great event on Saturday," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

"Despite the dampening effect of COVID-19, which has led to some cancellations, there is still interest in The Marianas and Saipan Marathon, and this event will help remind other visitors that we



Runners cruise along the scenic Beach Road during last year's Saipan Marathon.

are still a clean and beautiful destination. This weekend and always, we are encouraging everyone to observe the extensive public education on how to protect ourselves at this and other public arenas. As part of our collaborative efforts, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be on site for health screening purposes. Also, we would like remind drivers to exercise caution and follow all traffic officers' directions on the road Saturday morning to ensure a safe event for all participants," she added.

All competitors are required

to pick up their race packets tomorrow at the American Memorial Park. Pickup times are 3pm-4pm for team/groups/tour groups/etc. and 4pm-6pm for individuals only.

Powerade returns this year as exclusive sponsor, while Skymark Airlines, which provides direct daily flights from Tokyo to Saipan, is a platinum sponsor, along with IT&E. Hyatt Regency Saipan has signed on as a gold sponsor, and silver sponsors are Budget Car Rental Saipan, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan Apparel, Saipan Plant Center, and Subway. Supporters include Northern Marianas Athletics, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Memorial Park, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Fire and Emergency Services, Div. of Parks and Grounds, and Hawaiian Rock Products.

Saipan Marathon is certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races and supported by the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

"Our sporting community continues to prepare and train for next year's Pacific Mini Games to be held here in and this weekend's marathon competition provides an excellent venue to build stamina and mental preparedness required for the competition ahead among many athletes from many nations," NMSA stated. "We are thankful for the vigilant effort of the administration and all parties in the tourism and medical community that are doing everything within their power to screen and mitigate for COVID-19. Good luck to all participants and let's help MVA welcome all visitors enthusiastically."

The race will start and end at the American Memorial Park. The full marathon will kick off at 4:30am; 5:30am is for the half marathon; 5:45am for the 10K; and at 6am for the 5K. The cut-off time for the full marathon will be 8:30am at the halfway point. There is no cut-off time for the other courses.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

HANMI supports MVA's signature race

As in prior years, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is lending its support to the 2020 Saipan Marathon that will be held this Saturday.

HANMI has been a key partner of the annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority. Despite the extreme economic downturn caused by low visitor arrivals in The Marianas as a result of COVID-19, HANMI and its individual members are again offering resources to make this year's race a success.

"We are grateful more than ever for Saipan Marathon 2020 because these more than 700 registrants help show that there is still an awareness and confidence in The Marianas and that the public also has increased awareness and confidence in ways to protect themselves and others from the spread of germs, in general," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

More than 700 runners have registered for the event, including over 100 runners each from Japan and Korea.

"The public education on prevention measures and those most vulnerable has been excellent," said Cavanagh. "We continue to have other large public gatherings in our community, like a windsurfing competition, other walks and run, and a fishing derby. This run targets athletes, a healthy subset of the population, and will promote our destination as a healthy one. The marathon is also supported by our local sports organization, and we have been assured of our medical community's ability to respond to COVID-19. The economic activity generated by the marathon will also help us keep employees working, help keep government employees on the clock, and set The Marianas up for a faster recovery once public confidence in travelling is revived."

HANMI has committed \$1,000 toward cash prizes for the marathon course. HANMI member hotels will also man aid stations along the marathon, half marathon, 10K, and 5K courses. Some hotels have also extended special offers for marathon participants. (PR)

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 24

weekend.

In the nightcap, Kanoa was on target for a 10-6 win over Victory, while the Old B Bank and Paire settled for a draw in the second match, 1-1.

Andruw Omelau starred in Kanoa's first victory of the season, as he fired five goals, three were made in succession. The forward hit the board first in the 46th minute, while his next three were posted in a span of eight minutes (56th, 58th, and 64th), helping Kanoa turn a 3-1 halftime lead to a 7-2 advantage.

Sebastien Manabat, J.C. Piring, and Christian Buno delivered the three earlier goals, while Markus Toves added one four minutes after Omelau got his fourth to seal the deal.

Victory was late to coun-

ter the Omelau-led attack of Kanoa, as the losing squad did not make it to the board anew until the 70th mark of the game. It drew three goals from Bada Lee (70th, 87, and 89th minute) and one from Don Cabrera (72nd), but these were not enough to bring Victory back into the game, as Kanoa registered two more goals—courtesy of Omelau in the 82nd and Kirt Andon in the 84th.

In the Paire-Old B Bank standoff, Jireh Yobech recorded the equalizer for the former in the 43rd minute, 10 minutes after Timothy Tawanpiy handed the latter the shaky lead.

DIVISION B WNT 3, Shirley's 3

In the second game in Division B last Monday, the CNMI Women's National Team foiled Shirley's bid for second win.

Britanny Wally posted the

game-tying goal in the 75th minute, while the WNT's two other goals came from Jannah Casarino and Katrina Costales.

Shirley, which was behind at halftime (1-2) as only Mingguang Xu scored in the first half, got one goal apiece from Longwen Ji (46th minute) and Irish Pagarao (50th) to steal the lead. Shirley's, however, failed to take the win, as Wally saved the day for the WNT.

Despite the loss, Shirley's remains on top of the team standings in division, but not far behind are Matansa and Island Star.

Matansa 2, Island Star 0

Matansa matched Island Star's 1-0-1 win-draw-loss record after prevailing in their duel, also last Monday.

Gabriel Arkoh and Amzad Khan logged the two goals for Matansa.

TEAM STANDINGS

DIVISION A CLUBS	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
TanHoldings	2	0	0	6	9	5	4
All Blue	1	0	1	3	6	3	3
Paire	1	1	0	4	7	3	4
Kanoa	1	0	1	3	14	13	1
Old B Bank	0	1	1	1	2	6	-4
Victory	0	0	2	0	8	16	-8

DIVISION B	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
Shirley's	1	1	0	4	7	4	3
Island Star	1	0	1	3	4	4	0
Matansa	1	0	1	3	3	4	-1
WNT	0	1	1	1	5	7	-2

WARRIORS

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Star Water made crucial free throws in the homestretch to take the close win. Michael Cabanas knocked in a pair of shots from the stripe and Ron Gamboa and Elmer Esdrelon had one each with the latter also scoring 3 of Star Water's last 6 points.

Christian Itaas also helped Star Water's cause, as his 9 points earlier in the fourth quarter, highlighted by back-to-back triples, kept his team in the lead.

Star Water was up by only 3 after the third period, 66-63,

and could not pull away in the fourth, as Chris Lilles repeatedly brought Lakay back into the game. In the end, Star Water had to secure the win from the foul line.

First Game

Loving Hands 90—Factor 19, A. A Tabora 14, Tengco 12, Fidelino 10, J. Tabora 10, Javier 8, De Guzman 4, Alegre 4, Kintz 2, Hernandez 2.

Saipan Warriors 61—Lumen 19, Galang 13, Agosto 10, Cabildo 8, Rutab 6, Wintangco 4, Barron 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-11, 50-25, 71-44, 91-61.

RACE

From Page 24

she will duel either Julia Yoo or Ella Kim. The other semis showdown in the division will feature No. 2 seed Yuko Kumada and Michelle Wang.

In the men's 4.0 singles, Ji Hwan Ryu and David Kwon are the Top 2 seeds and they will be joined on the field by June Yu, Jun Wang, Juncheol Hwang, Daniel Kang, and Patrick Aquino.

In the men's 40 and over singles, Dong Min Lee is the No. 1 seed and will have his first game against either John Bradley or Wan Sub Lee. No. 2 seed Gary Ramsey is seeded No. 2 and will go for a finals slot when he faces the winner in the Edwin Simbulan-Ii Kyu Hwang tiff.

Dong Min Lee is also entered in the men's open doubles, as he will team up with his son, Sean. The Lees will have a chance to challenge the No. 1 seed pair of Race and Schorr if the father-and-son duo wins against Villanueva and Colin Ramsey this Saturday at the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half, Song and Woo will take on Bobby Cruz and Peter Loken.

In the men's 4.0 doubles, four pairs will vie for the championship—Andy Kim and Ji Hwan Ryu, Nason Wessel and June Yu, Ronnie Lacbayo and Aquino, and Isaac Heo and Juncheol Hwang.

For the women's open doubles, Serin Chung and Helen Kim will go head-to-head with Irin Chung and Miyawaki.



Davis misses
3 at buzzer,
Nets hold off
Lakers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TanHoldings on top; Kanoa rises



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Andruw Omelau takes a shot for one of his five goals in their 10-6 win over Victory in Division A of the 2020 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club took the early lead, while Kanoa Football Club quickly bounced back, as the two teams prevailed in their respective Division A matches in the 2020 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

TanHoldings gained the solo top spot in the team standings after earning its second victory

in as many games following a 2-1 triumph over All Blue. Martin Jambor scored the

pair of goals for TanHoldings with his shot in the 67th minute completing the come-



from-behind win for the squad. His first goal was recorded in the 56th minute, allowing TanHoldings to knot the count after All Blue had the lead for a long time.

A goal from Oliver Fajardo right in the second minute of the game gave All Blue the upper hand early in the curtain-raiser of the triple-header last

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 23



Race, national players in men's singles field

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The men's singles event in the inaugural Bridge Capital Tennis Classic will have an interesting competition, as CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race joins former and current junior national players in the battle for the division crown.

Incidentally, Race will have his opening match against Robbie Schorr this Friday. Race coached Schorr in the 2018 Pacific Games in Samoa where the former won a gold medal (team) and silver (men's doubles). The many-time CNMI national team



coach and the No. 1 seed Schorr are at the top half of the eight-player draw with the winner advancing to the semis against the victor in the match between Moris Villanueva and Colin Ramsey, who used to play for the Commonwealth's junior squad.

At the bottom half of the draw, Jimin Woo leads the field and he will go up against Malika Miyawaki this Friday. The other pairing at the lower half of the draw will have Ken Song—another gold medalist in last year's Pacific Games—battling Sean Lee.

Besides the men's singles play, six other division championships will be contested this weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

In the women's 3.0 singles, Hoo Wang is seeded first and will automatically advance to the semis where

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Loving Hands hammers Warriors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Loving Hands pounded Saipan Warriors, 90-61, in the first game in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last Monday at the Civic Center Court.

Five Loving Hands players scored in double figures to hand Saipan Warriors a bad beating in their season debut. Loving Hands notched its second victory in as many games.

Prince Factor paced Loving Hands with his 19 markers, Adi Tabora added 14, Jude Tengco chipped in 12, and Jun Tabora and Jun Fidelino contributed 10 apiece.

Fidelino nailed 7 of his total points early in the first quarter to lift Loving Hands to a double-digit advantage 24-11. Adi tallied 5 markers in Loving Hands' strong start and four of

his teammates also made it to the board.

With Loving Hands still spreading the wealth in the second quarter, it widened the gap to 25 at the half-time break, 50-25. Adi added 6 more points, the same output Tengco recorded in the second period, while three of their teammates delivered at least two baskets apiece.

Despite the big lead, Loving Hands showed no mercy to the Saipan Warriors in the second half, as the former's gunners kept hitting their targets. Saipan Warriors failed to keep up with Loving Hands' hot shooting with only John Lumen consistently making baskets for the losing squad.

Meanwhile, Star Water topped Lakay in the other match last Monday, 90-85.

See WARRIORS on Page 23



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Loving Hands' Prince Factor, left, blocks Manuel Jazarino during the second quarter of their game in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last Monday at the Civic Center Court.